NEW ELECTRONIC TECHNOLOGY

Quick Start Guide

SynView

NET´s Software Development Kit

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General information

Scope of the manual

This manual walks the user through the SynView software installation process (**Installation details** p.47) on various operating systems, suggests how to test the installation and provides information about various configuration (**Connecting and configuring the camera(s)** p.7) and troubleshooting options for SynView and its components (**Troubleshooting & Support** p.74). It also provides high-level overview of the package and its relationship with industry standards (Vision Standards p.70).

Related documents

- SynView programmer's guide: overview and tutorial of the SynView API library.
- GigEpro operational manual: user manual for NET´s onboard processing GigE/CMOS camera line.
- GimaGO easy operational manual: user manual for NET´s GigE/CCD camera line.
- CORSIGHT operational manual: user manual for NET´s CORSIGHT smart vision series.

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Quick start

This chapter provides instructions how to set up quickly and test a system using the SynView package with NET GmbH hardware. Individual sections discuss following tasks:

- Connecting the camera — install, connect and configure the cameras
- Installation — quick guide through SynView installation process under Windows
- Basic camera configuration — prepare the camera for the first acquisition
- Test the camera — instructions how to verify camera functionality in SynView Explorer

Connection and configuration of the camera(s)

Before installing the software and testing the functionality, prepare the camera(s) for use. Selection of NET camera lines:

- GimaGO easy — CCD based GigE Vision cameras (Gigabit Ethernet interface); hardware manual: GimaGO easy user manual
- GigEpro — onboard processing GigE Vision camera line supporting various CMOS sensors including image processing capabilities on embedded FPGA; hardware manual: GigEpro user manual
- CORSIGHT —smart vision series; hardware manual: CORSIGHT user manual

GigEpro & GimaGO easy

1. Consult precautions listed in GigEpro/GimaGO easy user manual**.** Be sure to not violate instructions in the manual
2. Connect the camera to proper power supply
3. Connect the camera to the network, or directly to the PC with a suitable Ethernet cable. We recommend using shielded (S/STP) category 6 cables or better.
4. If there is a DHCP server running within the network, the camera will get a proper IP address automatically. Otherwise the IP configuration of the camera using tools from the SynView package must be adjusted, once it is installed (other software packages might also offer IP configuration tools).
5. It is highly recommended and best common practice to install a dedicated network card, which only interfaces to camera(s) and will be dedicated to image acquisition only. In such case the firewall can be fully disabled for this network interface (Windows XP).

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

For Windows 7 the Firewall settings (Control Panel-> System and Security) can be changed after selecting “Allow a program through Windows Firewall”:

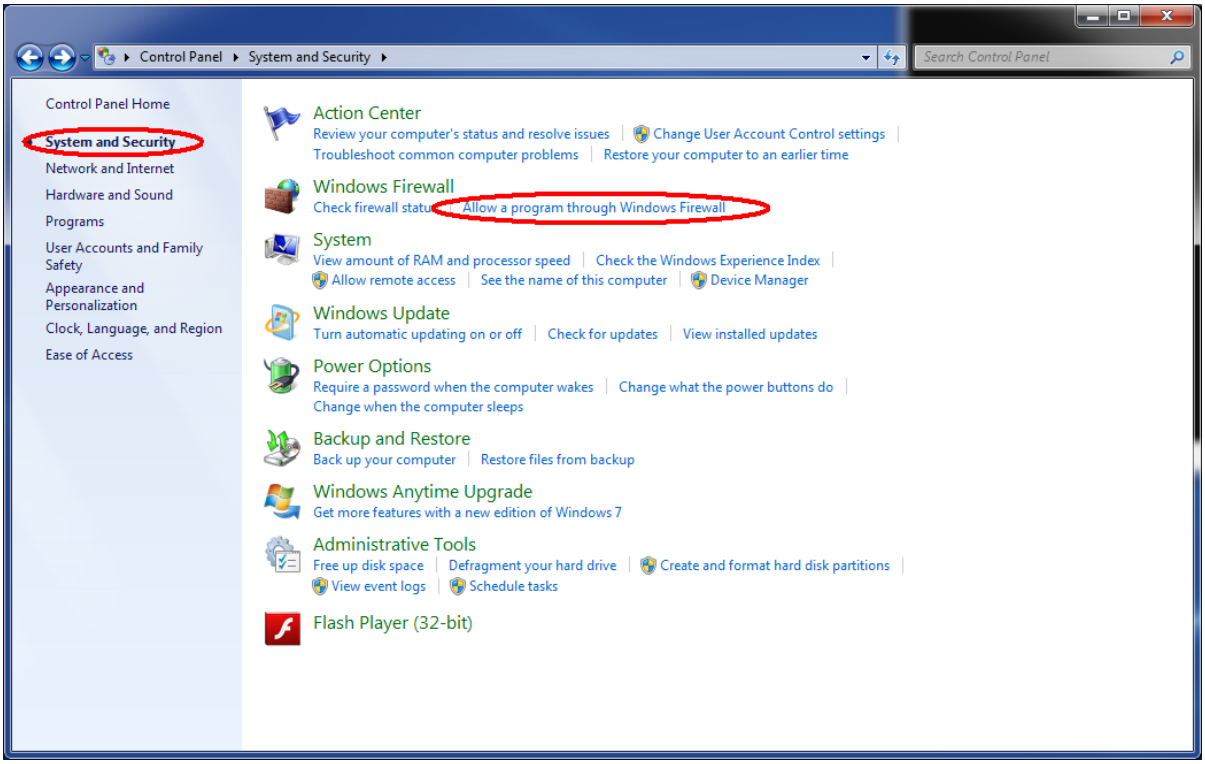
Control Panel ▸ System and Security ▸
Search Control Panel
Control Panel Home
System and Security
Network and Internet
Hardware and Sound
Programs
User Accounts and Family Safety
Appearance and Personalization
Clock, Language, and Region
Ease of Access
Action Center
Review your computer's status and resolve issues
Change User Account Control settings
Troubleshoot common computer problems
Restore your computer to an earlier time
Windows Firewall
Check firewall status
Allow a program through Windows Firewall
System
View amount of RAM and processor speed
Check the Windows Experience Index
Allow remote access
See the name of this computer
Device Manager
Windows Update
Turn automatic updating on or off
Check for updates
View installed updates
Power Options
Require a password when the computer wakes
Change what the power buttons do
Change when the computer sleeps
Backup and Restore
Back up your computer
Restore files from backup
Windows Anytime Upgrade
Get more features with a new edition of Windows 7
Administrative Tools
Free up disk space
Defragment your hard drive
Create and format hard disk partitions
View event logs
Schedule tasks
Flash Player (32-bit)

Figure 1 Windows 7 allow program through firewall

In the following menu check “Change settings” first and then select “Allow another program…..”:

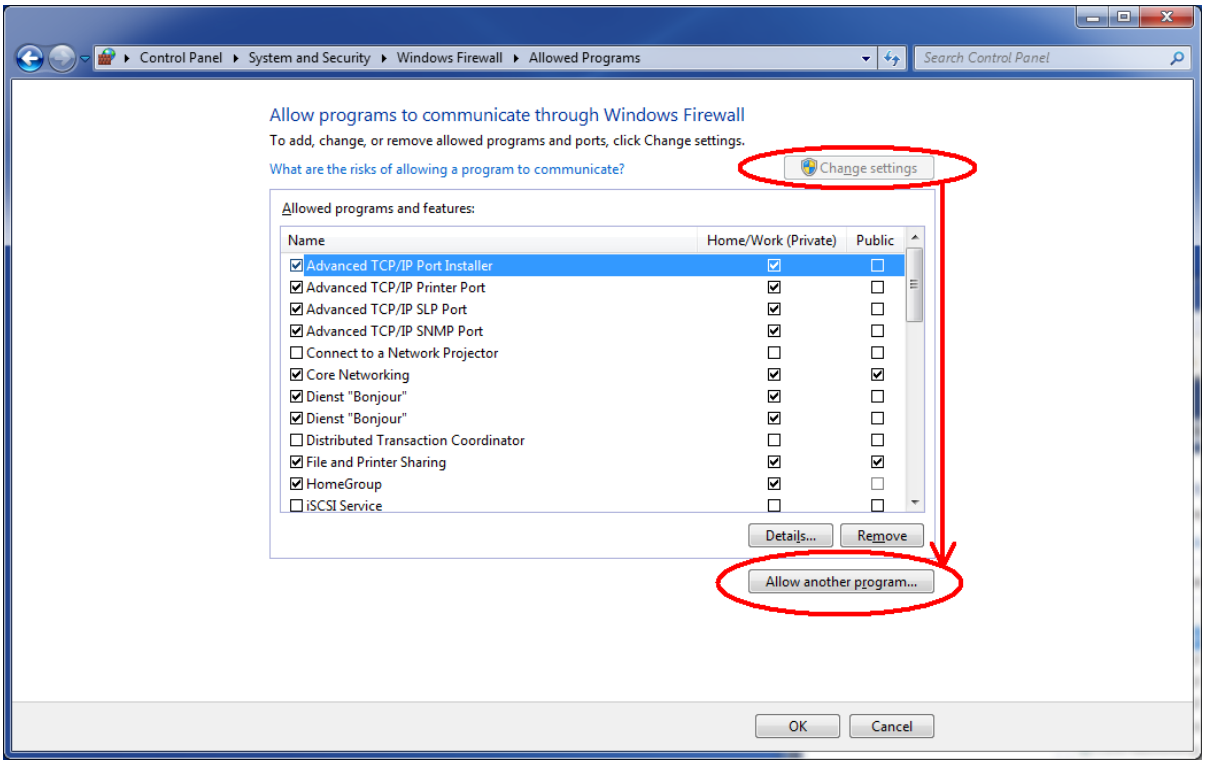

Figure 2 Windows 7 allow another program through firewall

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Select the SynView Explorer executable from the program list to become an exception for the firewall:

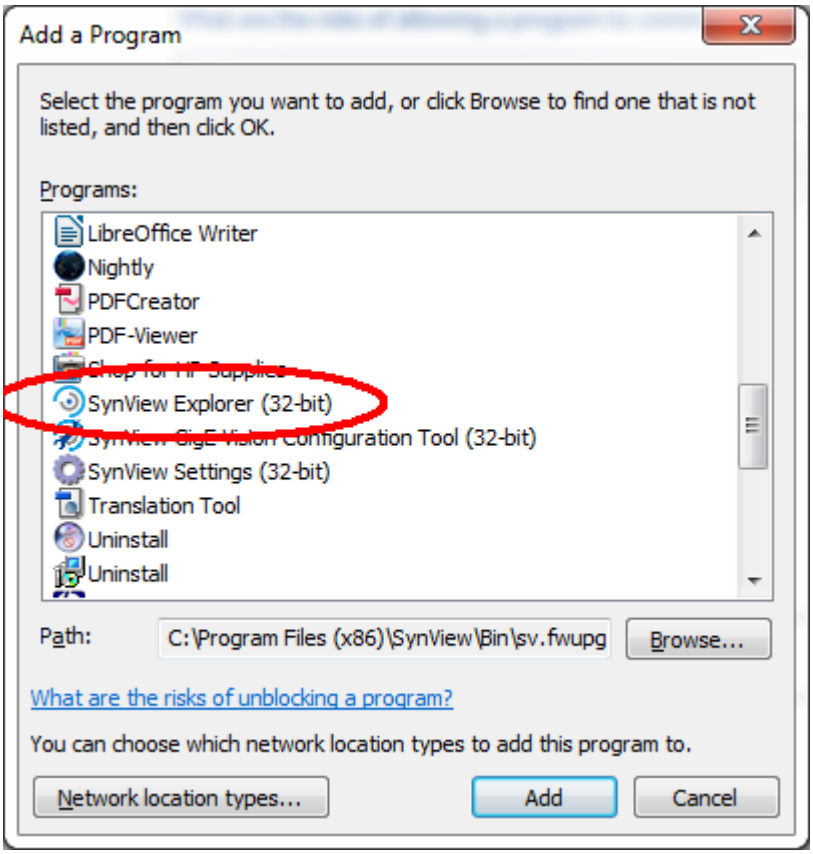

Figure 3 Windows 7 Firewall Setup: Allow SynView Explorer

After selecting the SynView Explorer in the Program list double-check the option “Network location types….” and make sure both options for the network types are selected.

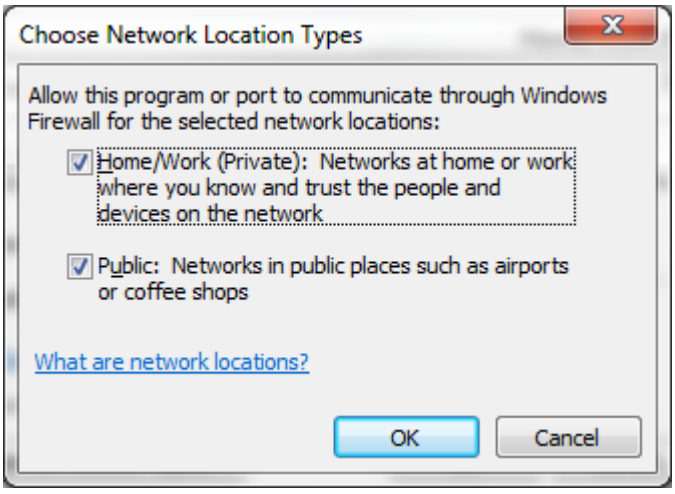
Choose Network Location Types
Allow this program or port to communicate through Windows Firewall for the selected network locations:
Home/Work (Private): Networks at home or work where you know and trust the people and devices on the network
Public: Networks in public places such as airports or coffee shops
What are network locations?
OK
Cancel

Figure 4 Windows 7 Firewall Setup: Network Location Types

Finally double check in the Advanced Security subtab of the Windows firewall menu that with all “Inbound Rules” of the SynviewExplorer the UDP Protocol selected.

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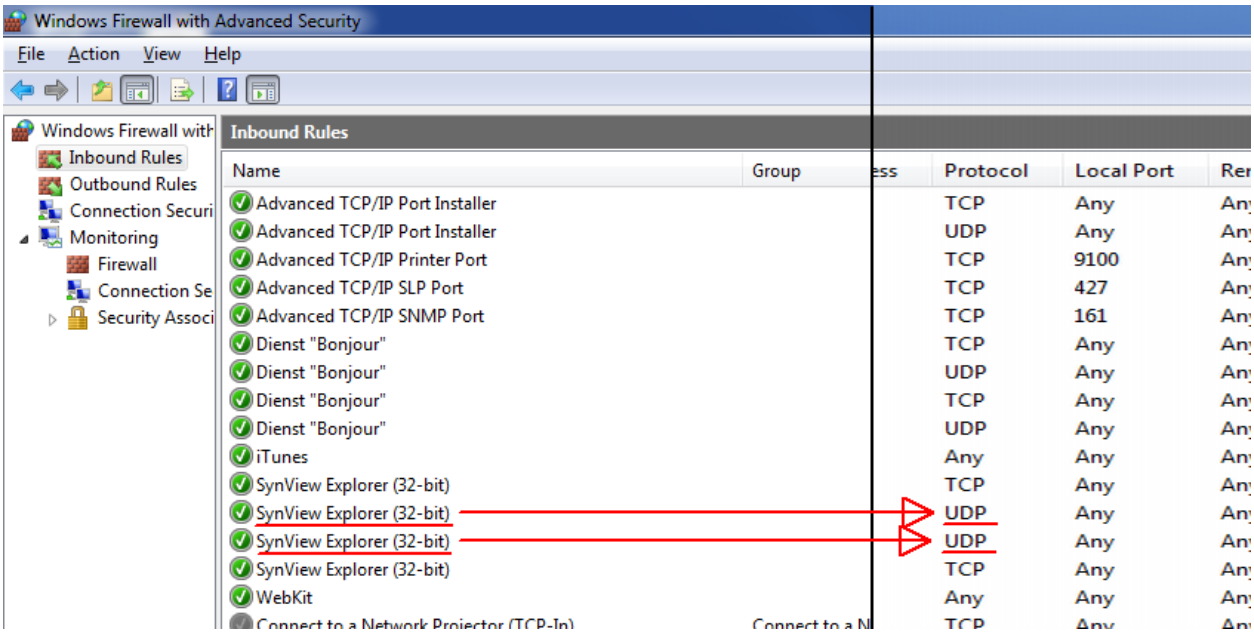

Figure 5 Windows 7 Firewall: Advanced Security Settings

- If the network configuration, however, requires sharing internet and other network access with the image acquisition over the same media (which is not recommended practice), the firewall needs to be configured so that it does not block the communication with the camera. In Windows Firewall this can be done by creating an exception for each application that will be accessing the camera — especially for the SynView Explorer that is use for the first tests (possibly limiting the exception's scope to the local subnet only). Note that the applications to be unblocked (including SynView Explorer) are not usually present yet in the system at the time of installation. Therefore this step might have to be repeated after the installation itself and again for each new application. We recommend to apply a network connection dedicated solely for the camera connection — and disabling firewall fully for this connection.

CORSIGHT

1. Consult precautions listed in CORSIGHT user manual. Be sure to not violate instructions in the manual.
2. Unpack the camera, connect necessary peripherals and power it up.
3. Assuming that the desired operating system is already pre-installed on the camera, no additional steps are needed and the camera is ready for SynView installation and test.

SynView installation — quick guide for Windows

Following points guide quickly through SynView installation under Windows. For detailed instructions or installation in another operating system, refer to full SynView ”Installation details” p.47.
Installation procedure:

1. Prepare the installation media. The software should be installed by a user with administrator rights.

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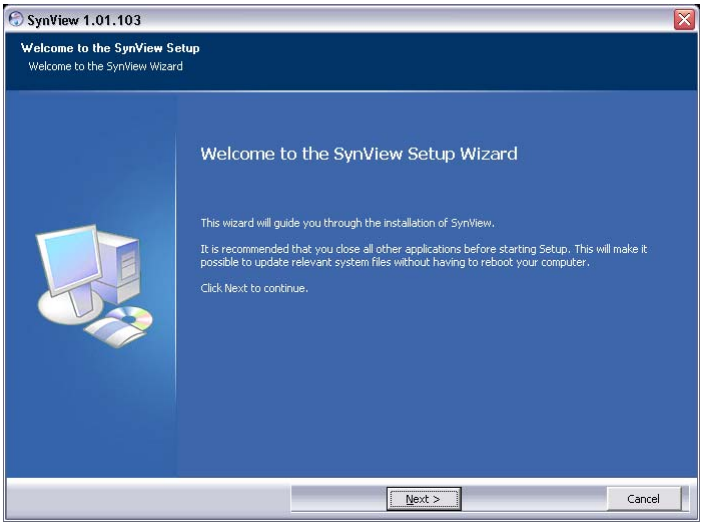
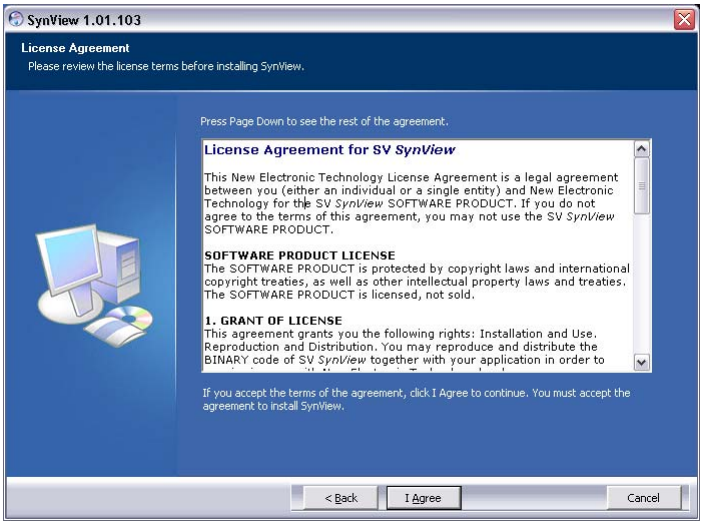
a. If the installation CD is at hand, insert it in the CD-ROM drive and wait until installation starts.
b. If the installer was downloaded from NET´s website, execute it.

2. Depending on security adjustments of the system and whether the installer is running from a local disk or a network share, a “Open File - Security Warning” might appear. Simply proceed by clicking "Run". The installer starts with following screen click "Next":


SynView 1.01.103
Welcome to the SynView Setup
Welcome to the SynView Wizard
Welcome to the SynView Setup Wizard
This wizard will guide you through the installation of SynView.
It is recommended that you close all other applications before starting Setup. This will make it possible to update relevant system files without having to reboot your computer.
Click Next to continue.
Next >
Cancel

3. Next screen is the license agreement. Please read carefully the license text and, click the "I Agree" button to proceed with installation:


SynView 1.01.103
License Agreement
Please review the license terms before installing SynView.
Press Page Down to see the rest of the agreement.
License Agreement for SV SynView
This New Electronic Technology License Agreement is a legal agreement between you (either an individual or a single entity) and New Electronic Technology for the SV SynView SOFTWARE PRODUCT. If you do not agree to the terms of this agreement, you may not use the SV SynView SOFTWARE PRODUCT.
SOFTWARE PRODUCT LICENSE
The SOFTWARE PRODUCT is protected by copyright laws and international copyright treaties, as well as other intellectual property laws and treaties. The SOFTWARE PRODUCT is licensed, not sold.
1. GRANT OF LICENSE
This agreement grants you the following rights: Installation and Use. Reproduction and Distribution. You may reproduce and distribute the BINARY code of SV SynView together with your application in order to
If you accept the terms of the agreement, click I Agree to continue. You must accept the agreement to install SynView.
< Back
I Agree
Cancel

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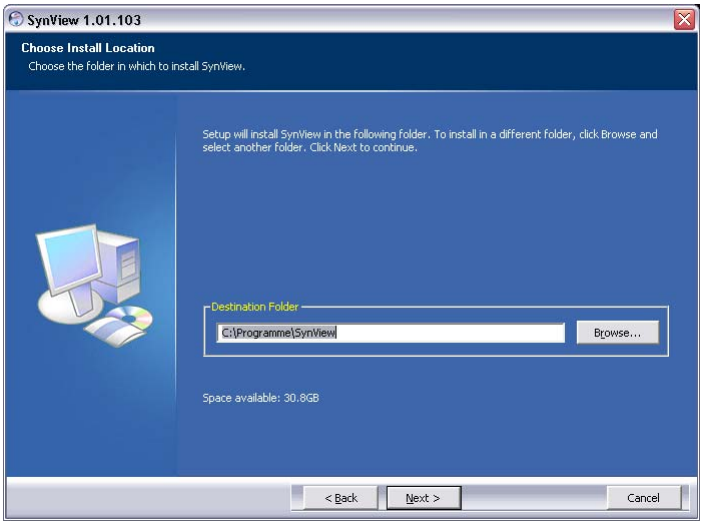
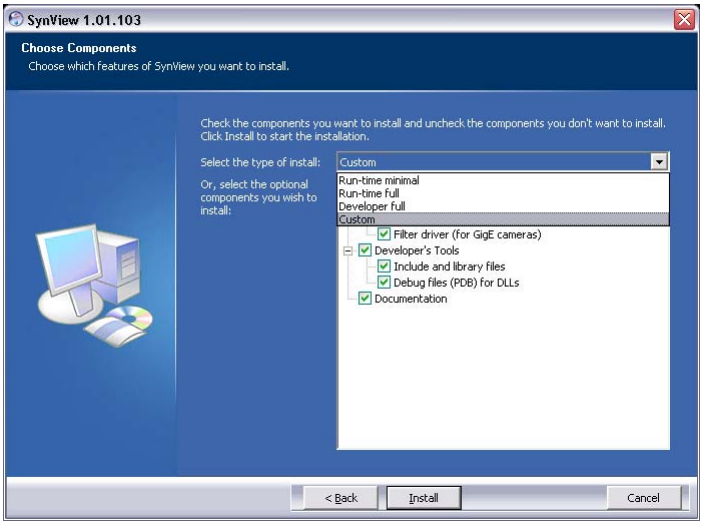
4. Next the installer asks about the location where to install SynView. The default location will do well in most cases. Keep it or select another preferred location and click "Next".


SynView 1.01.103
Choose Install Location
Choose the folder in which to install SynView.
Setup will install SynView in the following folder. To install in a different folder, click Browse and select another folder. Click Next to continue.
Destination Folder
C:\Programme\SynView
Browse...
Space available: 30.8GB
< Back
Next >
Cancel

5. If running Windows 7 or a newer Windows version, the default software installation directory (C:\Program Files) is read only. The installer will ask where to put the application data requiring write access (the dialog will not appear on Windows XP). Select a desired location and click "Next".
6. In the next step the SynView components must be selected for installation. For testing cameras the installation of the “runtime” components is sufficient. For programming with SynView he Developer's tools must be installed as well. When finished with the selection, click "Install".


SynView 1.01.103
Choose Components
Choose which features of SynView you want to install.
Check the components you want to install and uncheck the components you don't want to install. Click Install to start the installation.
Select the type of install:
Custom
Or, select the optional components you wish to install:
Run-time minimal
Run-time full
Developer full
Custom
Filter driver (for GigE cameras)
Developer's Tools
Include and library files
Debug files (PDB) for DLLs
Documentation
< Back
Install
Cancel

7. After starting the installation, the selected components will be installed to the computer. The installer informs about the progress.
8. When completed, the installer displays the final dialog. Keep the default option (Reboot now) and click "Finish". After rebooting, SynView is ready to use.

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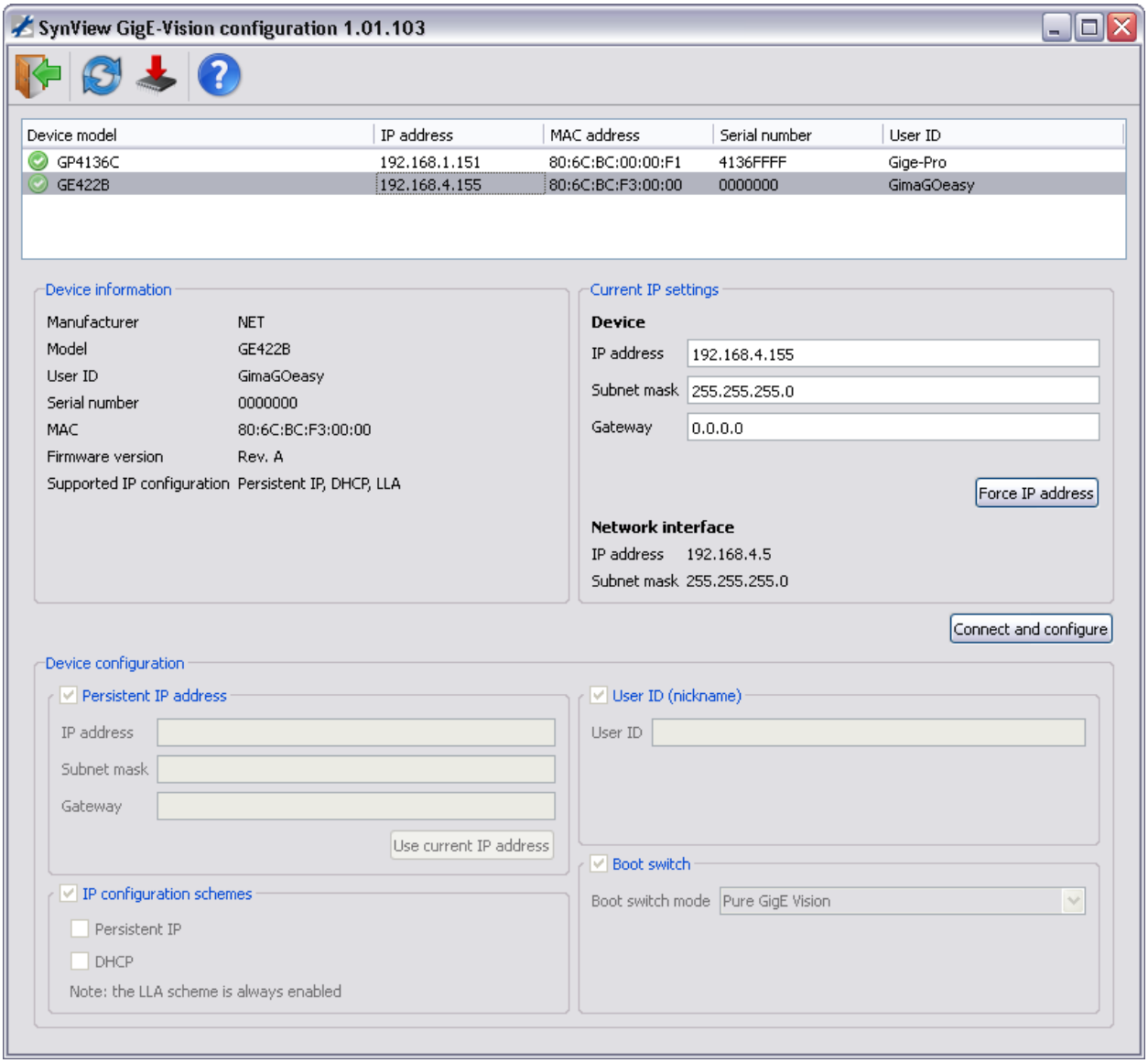
Basic camera configuration

For CORSIGHT cameras no additional actions are needed. Proceed with the testing of the camera. When using GigEpro/GimaGO easy cameras, the IP configuration must be adjusted for a fit with the network settings.

Start the SynView GigE Vision Configuration Tool:

Start→Programs→SynView→SynView GigE Vision Configuration Tool (under Linux, start /opt/synview/bin/sv.ipconf).

The tool will scan for the GigE Vision cameras connected to the system. If the camera(s) is directly accessible from the PC, they will be displayed with a green “OK” icon. In such case the camera(s) is(are) ready for acquisition, no further actions are necessary.



If the camera is displayed using a yellow icon, it is “visible” from the PC, but cannot be directly accessed, because it is configured with a different subnet than the network card. In this case, select the camera in

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the list, adjust its IP configuration, so that it matches settings of the network card, select the Fix IP checkbox and click the *Set persistent* Conf button. When finished, the camera's IP configuration should match the network card. It will display with the green icon in the list and will be now directly accessible from the PC. It is ready for test.
If desired, the camera's "nickname" (user name) can be adjusted as well, together with the IP configuration. The nickname can be used to identify individual cameras connected to the network.

Testing camera(s)

The SynView package contains the SynView Explorer tool, which allows to enumerate, connect and configure cameras, acquire images or generate sample source code for the SynView API. It is a useful tool for testing both the SynView and camera functionality.

1. Start the tool from system menu:
   Start →Programs → SynView →SynView Explorer (under Linux, start /opt/synview/bin/sv.explorer)

2. Connect the camera for test — select the camera in the list of found cameras and press .
   Of course, the camera must be connected and powered.

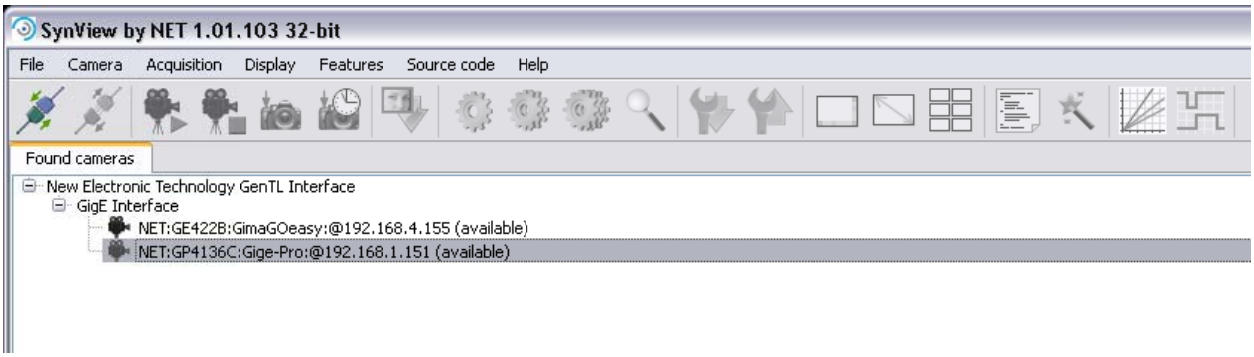

Figure 6 SynView Explorer GigE Cameras

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3. Configure the camera features as desired. Pay attention especially to features in Image Format Control and Acquisition Control categories.

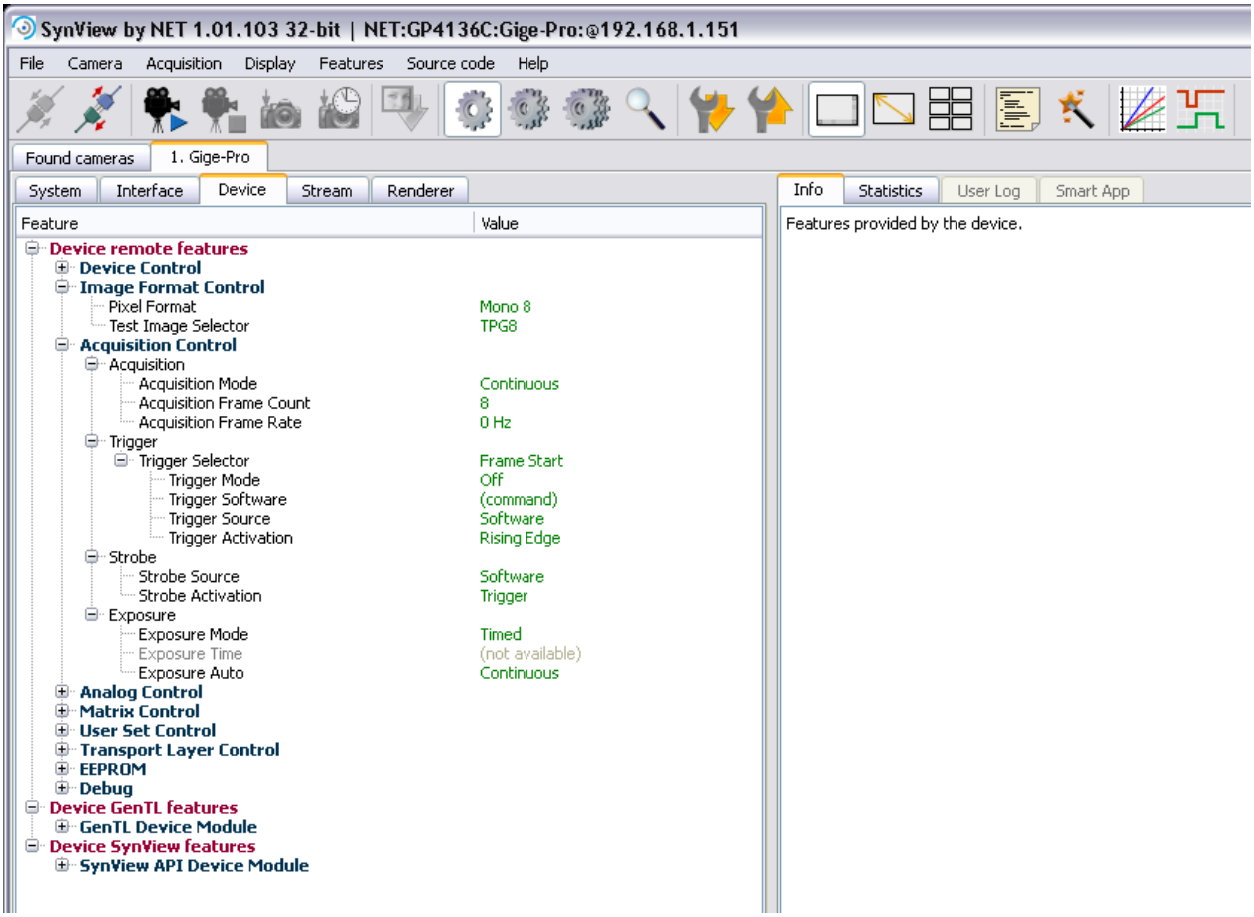

Figure 7 SynView Explorer Acquisition

4. When prepared, click — the camera should start acquiring. If not, verify again, if the camera is properly connected and running, if the system is properly configured (remember the notes above about firewall, network configuration, etc.) or if the camera was not set to triggered mode, while no trigger was attached.

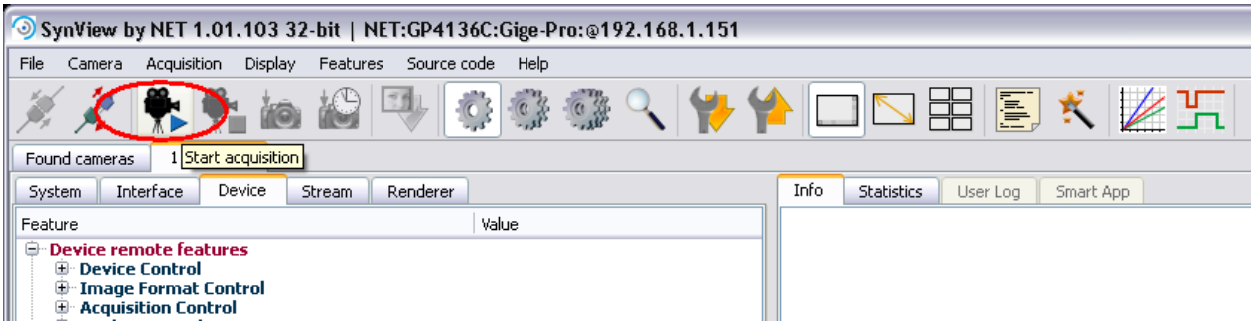
SynView by NET 1.01.103 32-bit | NET:GP4136C:Gige-Pro:@192.168.1.151
File Camera Acquisition Display Features Source code Help
Found cameras 1 Start acquisition
System Interface Device Stream Renderer
Info Statistics User Log Smart App
Feature Value
Device remote features
Device Control
Image Format Control
Acquisition Control

Figure 8 SynView Explorer Play

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

5. While the acquisition is active, the user can still adjust the runtime parameters, such as exposure time or gain. Basic acquisition parameters, such as pixel format or trigger mode become locked when the acquisition starts.

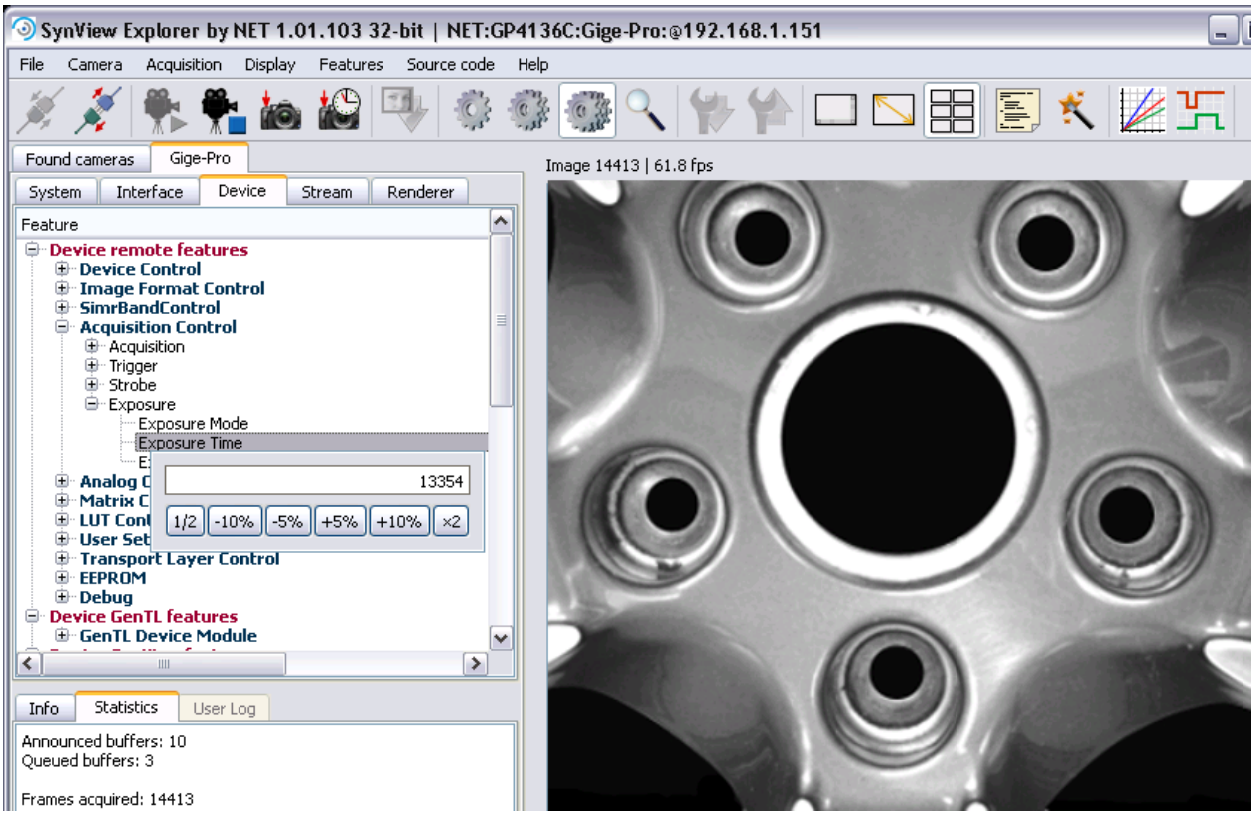

Figure 9 SynView Play and Multiwindow Pre-view

6. When finished, click and exit.

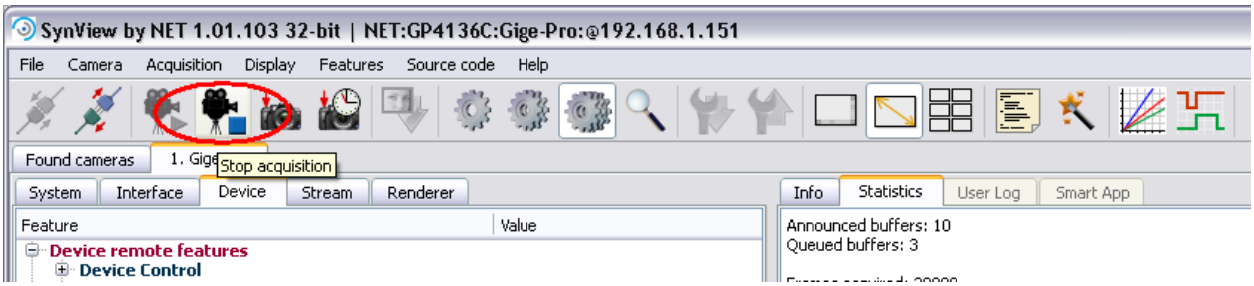

Figure 10 SynView Stop Acquisition

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

What next?

After the basic tests and the verification, the user might want to:

- Get more detailed information about installation process for all supported operating systems **Installation details** p.47 or information about customizing the Linux installer "**Custom installation**" p.64.
- Learn about SynView configuration options ("**SynView Settings utility and the configuration file**" p.67) and overview of troubleshooting and technical support approach ("**Troubleshooting & Support** p.74).
- Get overview about SynView package, its components, functionality and connectivity ("**SynView overview**" p.18), including the SynView Explorer tool ("**SynView Explorer in detail**"p.24). Learn to understand the GenICam based camera feature tree and other important SynView API principles ("**Important principles behind SynView interface**" p.39).
- Know basics about the important machine vision standards, GenICam and GigE Vision ("**Vision Standards**" p.70) and how to take advantage of advanced support for these standards in SynView when interfacing 3rd party software and hardware products.
- Study documentation for the hardware:
    - GigEpro user manual
    - CORSIGHT user manual
- Study documentation for the SynView API:
    - SynView programmer's guide

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SynView overview

This chapter gives a high level description of the SynView installer, its components and the supported hardware.

Connecting an application with NET cameras

The SynView installer is available in versions for Windows and Linux operating systems, running on 32-bit and 64-bit PC architectures.
All supported platforms are treated with the same priority the since beginning, share the equivalent feature range and provide the same toolset. Releases for all platforms are synchronized and all tests are executed on every platform. Migrating to a different operating system or upgrading to a 64-bit architecture is thus very straightforward and painless.
There are multiple ways how to include our cameras in the application. The most natural one is to use the SynView software package and its SynView API library, which provides all the means for comfort work with the hardware and the acquired images. The sample code generator accompanying the library helps to integrate SynView in the user´s application with very limited effort. Because the low level hardware access library is a full featured GenICam GenTL Producer, the entire functionality of all NET camera models is readily available in any image processing software package supporting GenTL standard, such as Halcon, ActivVisionTools or Common Vision Blox. Furthermore, the GigE Vision based cameras (GigEpro and GimaGO easy) are fully compatible also with those packages that did not yet implement GenTL.

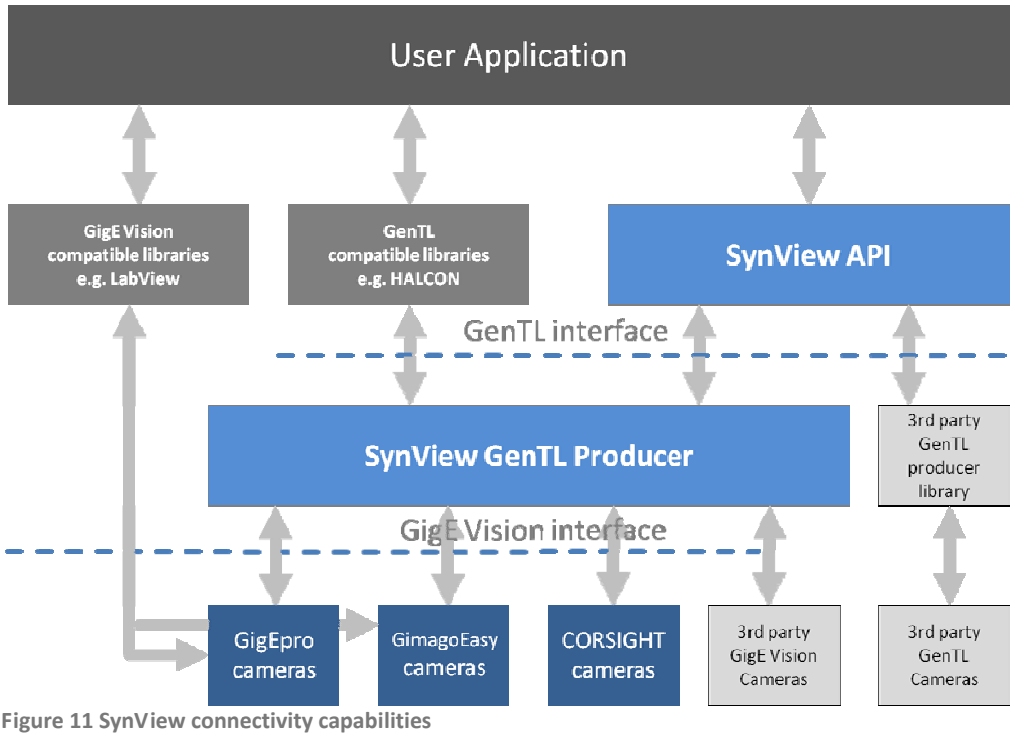

Figure 11 SynView connectivity capabilities

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Thanks to SynView's wide compatibility with GenTL and GigE Vision standards, NET can also accommodate customers who need to combine our cameras with a 3rd party model in a single project with a single API.

SynView GenTL Producer

The SynView's hardware access layer unifies access to the entire camera product range, covering all interface and sensor types and exposes that through a single interface. The interface is compatible with the GenICam GenTL standard (being a full featured GenTL Producer) and can thus be connected to SynView upper layers (SynView API) or to any GenTL Consumer library. SynView is also a fully GigE Vision compatible software.

SynView API

The diagram shows the basic architecture of the SynView API library, showing the most commonly used components.

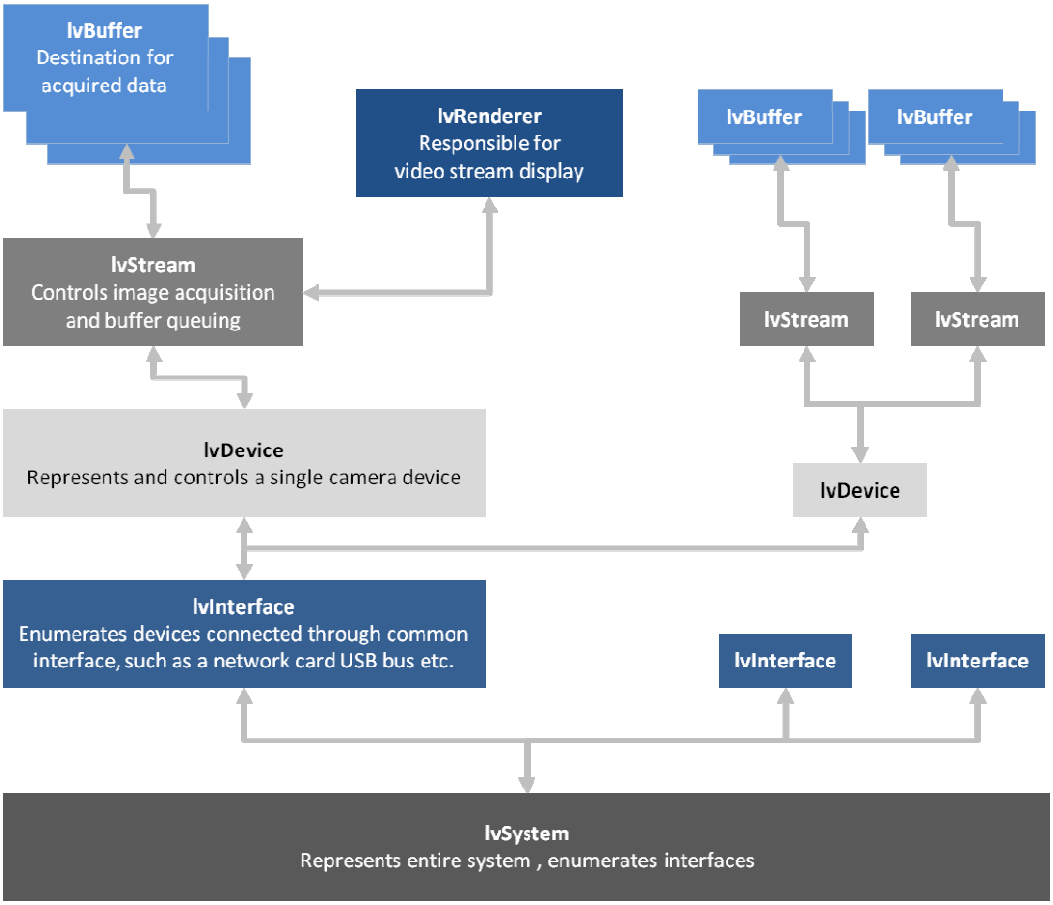

Figure 12 Main abstractions of the SynView API and their relationships

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The SynView API functionality is available either through a pure C interface, through an object-oriented C++ interface or as a .Net class library.
It supports various use cases, from trivial applications, where most functionality, including configuration, threading or display is handled internally by the library to complex scenarios, where user have fine grain control over everything.
Although the library provides the same functionality as any generic GenICam based package, SynView API goes way further, providing direct access to all common camera features, shortcuts for easy handling of complex feature sets. Of course it handles all obvious acquisition related tasks such as buffer queuing, saving images etc.
SynView API comes also with a preprocessing library that unifies access to preprocessing capabilities of some cameras and similar functionality in the software. When replacing a simple camera with a model capable of real-time preprocessing, the same user code will keep working seamless, only the task will get automatically offloaded from the host processor to the camera.
Last but not least, it also offers GUI components and dialogs for inclusion in user applications – such as the GenICam feature tree control.
While providing add-on features utilizing work with NET cameras, the SynView core is kept strictly generic, so that it works well with any GenICam compatible product.

SynView Explorer and SynView Source Code Generator

The SynView Explorer tool is a primary testing and demonstration program built on top of the SynView API — it provides easy access to the SynView API and camera functionality, available right after the installation without any programming. Besides that, the SynView Explorer offers additional built-in features designed to assist the developer to create a SynView API application quickly and easily.
The user interface of the SynView Explorer is discussed in ”SynView Explorer in detail” p.24. Writing applications utilizing all advantages of modern cameras, in particular if the application should stay generic, error resistant and open for cameras of different models (possibly even different technologies or different vendors) requires good understanding of principles behind the GenICam standard.
To simplify and streamline the development process, NET provides the SynView Source Code Generator tool.

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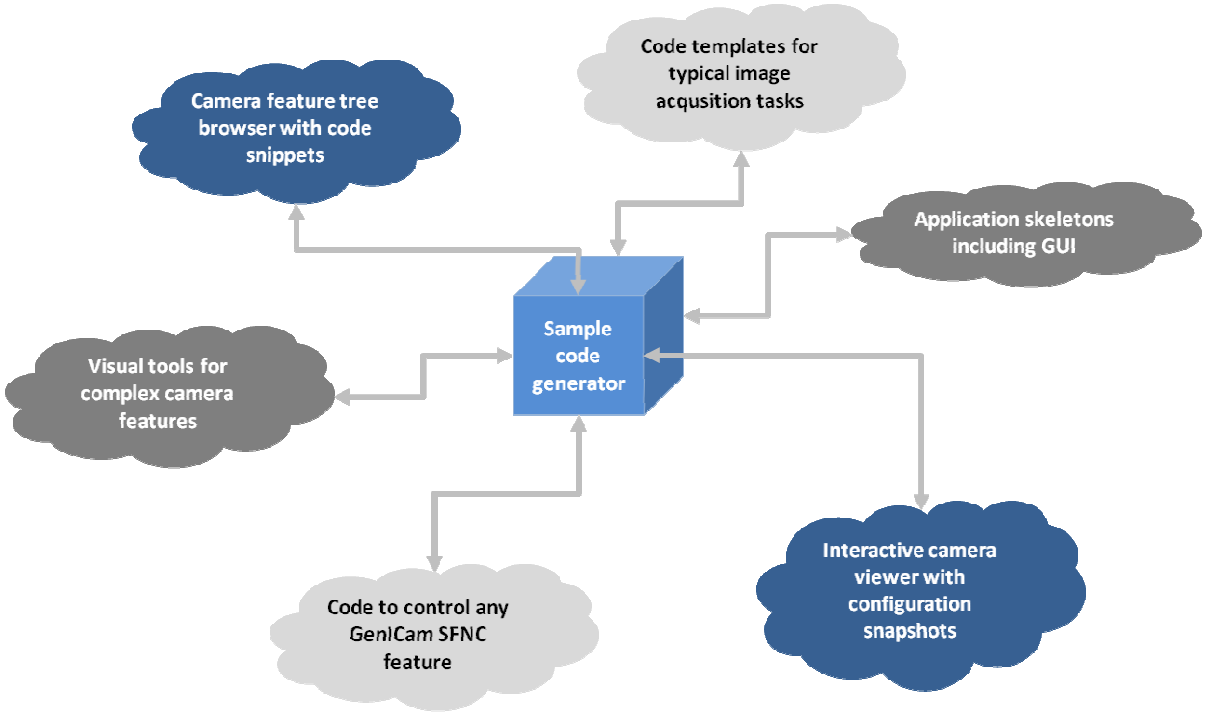
Code templates for typical image acqusition tasks
Camera feature tree browser with code snippets
Application skeletons including GUI
Sample code generator
Visual tools for complex camera features
Interactive camera viewer with configuration snapshots
Code to control any GenICam SFNC feature

Figure 13 SynView Source Code Generator features

- Single-line snippets to full-fledged examples including GUI.
- Templates for typical image acquisition and processing tasks, eg. camera enumeration, buffering techniques, HW/SW preprocessing etc.
- Browsing the camera's feature tree, generating code to control given feature. Browsing the feature tree including all standard SFNC features.
- Visual tools for complex camera features (trigger modes, complex digital I/O, LUT's and color transformations, AOI, etc.).
- Interactive camera configuration snapshot & reuse full camera settings.
- C, C++, C++.Net, C# or VB.Net code. Operating system independent code. Optional GUI elements based on Qt or Win32 API (eventually Xlib).
- Interactive code generation; cut & paste the code to the application.
- Fully generic, works with any GenICam compatible camera.
- Generating customized code examples through several mouse clicks. The tool runs under Windows and Linux.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

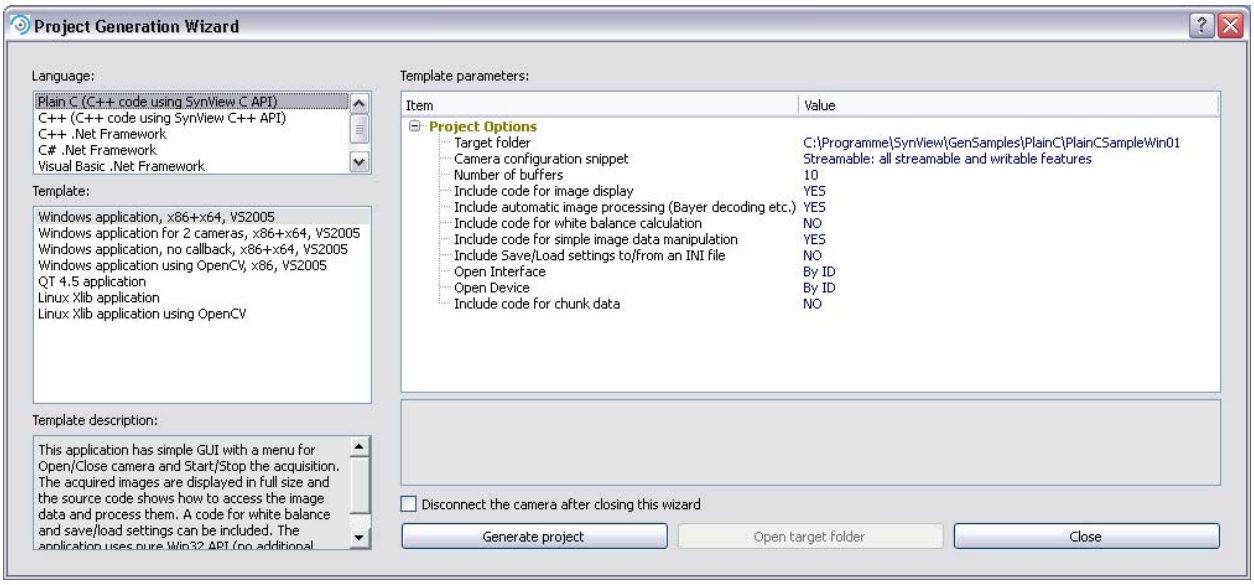
Project Generation Wizard
Language:
Plain C (C++ code using SynView C API)
C++ (C++ code using SynView C++ API)
C++ .Net Framework
C# .Net Framework
Visual Basic .Net Framework
Template:
Windows application, x86+x64, VS2005
Windows application for 2 cameras, x86+x64, VS2005
Windows application, no callback, x86+x64, VS2005
Windows application using OpenCV, x86, VS2005
QT 4.5 application
Linux Xlib application
Linux Xlib application using OpenCV
Template description:
This application has simple GUI with a menu for Open/Close camera and Start/Stop the acquisition. The acquired images are displayed in full size and the source code shows how to access the image data and process them. A code for white balance and save/load settings can be included. The
Template parameters:
Item
Value
Project Options
Target folder
C:\Programme\SynView\GenSamples\PlainC\PlainCSampleWin01
Camera configuration snippet
Streamable: all streamable and writable features
Number of buffers
10
Include code for image display
YES
Include automatic image processing (Bayer decoding etc.)
YES
Include code for white balance calculation
NO
Include code for simple image data manipulation
YES
Include Save/Load settings to/from an INI file
NO
Open Interface
By ID
Open Device
By ID
Include code for chunk data
NO
Disconnect the camera after closing this wizard
Generate project
Open target folder
Close

Figure 14 SynView Source Code Generator configuration

Details about the SynView Source Code Generator with guidelines how to use it to quickly develop an application with SynView API are provided in SynView programmer's guide.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Industry standards

SynView by NET uses the GenTL interface as a middle layer of the camera SDK. This allows maximum flexibility and both-side openness of the library. The industrial standards being used in SynView are listed below.

Table 1 Industrial Standards used in SynView SDK

GenApi	API, defines means to describe all camera features, their corresponding control registers and providing access to those features
GenTL	GenTL (Transport Layer), an interface between applications and camera-control libraries, covering device enumeration, image acquisition and related tasks.
SFNC	SFNC (Standard Features Naming Convention), standardizing names (IDs), types and other aspects for most common features of a machine vision camera
GigE Vision	Set of UDP/IP based protocols standardizing access to Gigabit Ethernet based cameras and devices.

More information about these industrial standards is provided in ”Vision Standards” p.70.

Licensing information

The SynView package and/or the software included in the cameras uses the following 3rd party software components:

- GenApi reference implementation — distributed under the GenICam license by the GenICam committee. The copyright is held by the GenICam committee. The package as well as the license is available from www.genicam.org. The GenICam GenApi reference implementation in turn uses Apache Xalan-C++ and Xerces-C++ libraries (Apache license, www.apache.org) and the modified MathParser library (LGPL license, kirya.narod.ru/mathparser.html).
- zlib compression library: available from www.zlib.net under zlib license.
- The Independent JPEG Group's JPEG software (libjpeg): available from www.ijg.org (Independent JPEG Group).
- OpenCV: available from opencv.willowgarage.com under BSD license.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

SynView Explorer in Detail

The SynView Explorer is a demonstration and developer tool delivered with SynView. It is written fully using the SynView API and therefore can serve as demo for both the camera and SynView API capabilities.
In Windows, the SynView Explorer can be started from the system menu:
Start →Programs → SynView →SynView Explorer.

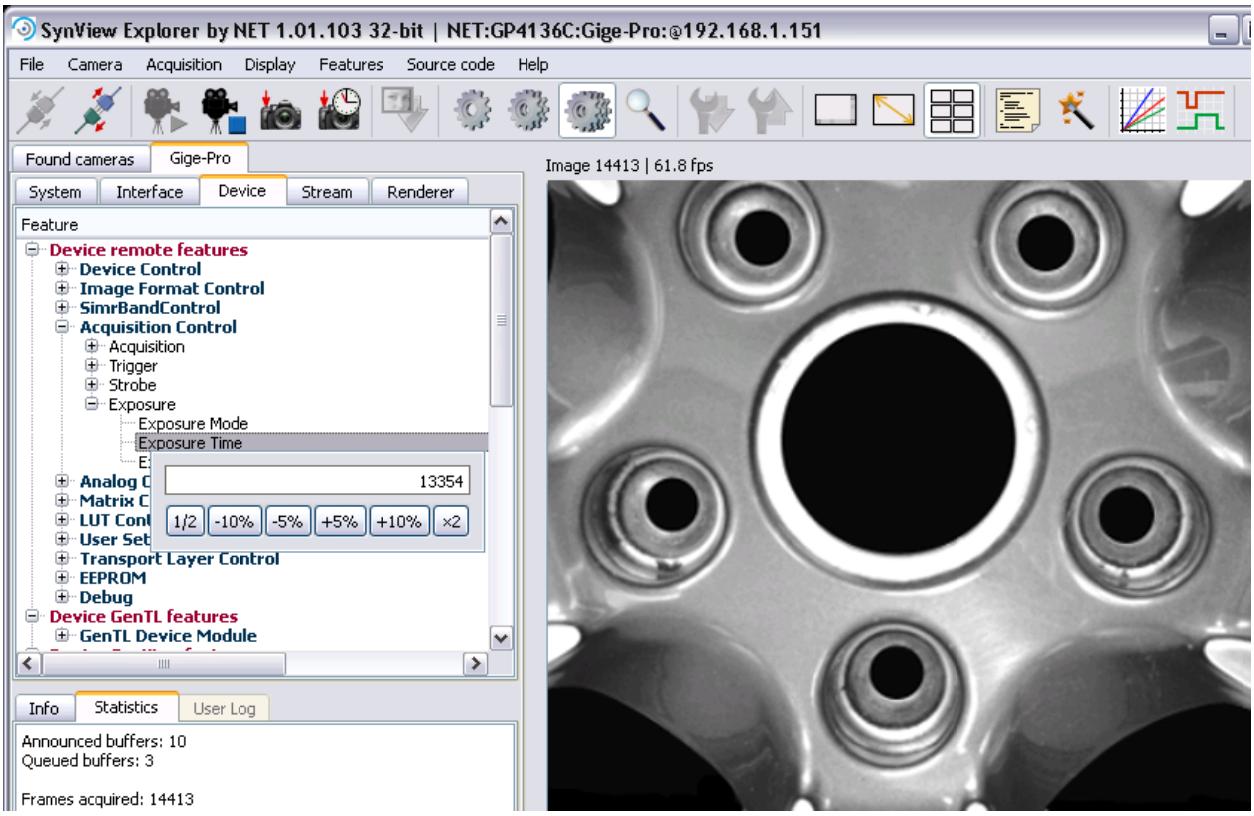

Figure 15 SynView Explorer running under Windows

In Linux, it can be started for example by executing the sv.explorer command from the shell, the installer attempts to add SynView executables to the system path. If not, it can still be invoked using full path: /opt/synview/bin/sv.explorer.
Only screen shots from Windows are shown. In Linux they would be identical (with the difference only in the display options).
SynView Explorer offers its functionality in a set of menus. Many menu items are duplicated as toolbar buttons, for convenience. In the screen shots we will show mostly the usage of the toolbar buttons.
SynView Explorer can be run in:

- Single camera (compact) mode, which uses only single application window. In this mode only one camera can be opened.
- Multiple cameras mode, which uses one window for controls and one window for each connected camera. In this mode multiple cameras can be connected and concurrently used.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

The mode can be set in the Settings dialog (see "Settings" p.36) and is applied when the Explorer is started next time.

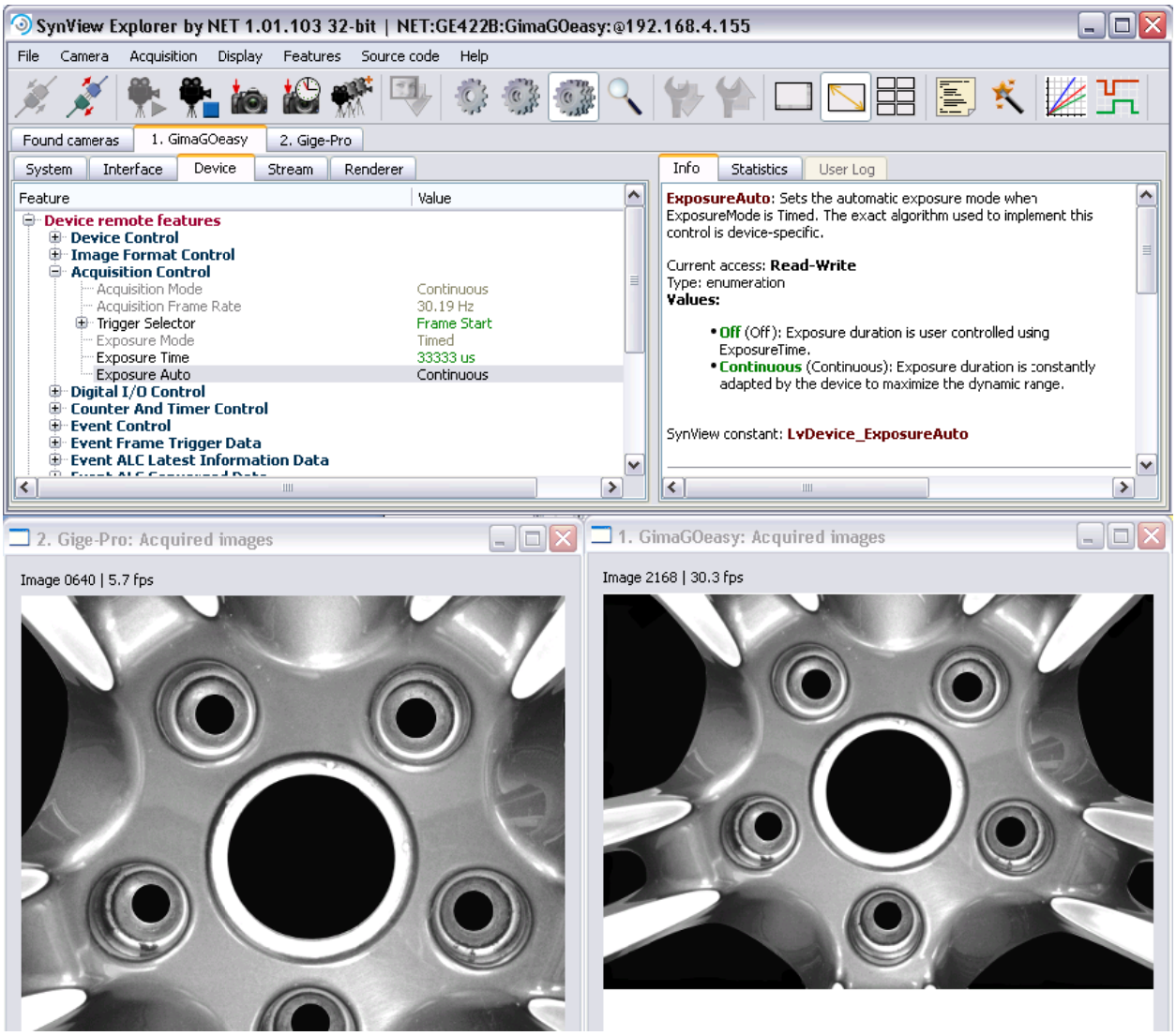
SynView Explorer by NET 1.01.103 32-bit | NET:GE422B:GimaGOeasy:@192.168.4.155
File Camera Acquisition Display Features Source code Help
Found cameras
1. GimaGOeasy
2. Gige-Pro
System Interface Device Stream Renderer
Info Statistics User Log
Feature Value
Device remote features
Device Control
Image Format Control
Acquisition Control
Acquisition Mode Continuous
Acquisition Frame Rate 30.19 Hz
Trigger Selector Frame Start
Exposure Mode Timed
Exposure Time 33333 us
Exposure Auto Continuous
Digital I/O Control
Counter And Timer Control
Event Control
Event Frame Trigger Data
Event ALC Latest Information Data
ExposureAuto: Sets the automatic exposure mode when ExposureMode is Timed. The exact algorithm used to implement this control is device-specific.
Current access: Read-Write
Type: enumeration
Values:
Off (Off): Exposure duration is user controlled using ExposureTime.
Continuous (Continuous): Exposure duration is constantly adapted by the device to maximize the dynamic range.
SynView constant: LvDevice_ExposureAuto
2. Gige-Pro: Acquired images
Image 0640 | 5.7 fps
1. GimaGOeasy: Acquired images
Image 2168 | 30.3 fps

Figure 16 SynView Explorer running in multiple cameras mode

Connection and disconnection of the camera

The first step after starting the tool is to select and connect a camera. SynView Explorer uses regular SynView approach to enumerate cameras — depending on the configuration it can offer cameras from a single or from all GenTL Producer libraries available on the system. By default, it connects to the SynView GenTL Producer, which handles all NET cameras (GigEpro,GimaGO easy , CORSIGHT) as well as 3rd party GigE Vision compatible cameras.

All the found cameras are displayed in a tree on the "Found Cameras" tab. The tree lists all found Systems (GenTL producers), under each System it lists all Interfaces, containing at least one active device

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(camera), and under each interface it lists all found Devices. When selecting a device, it can be connected by clicking on , or simply by double-clicking on the device.

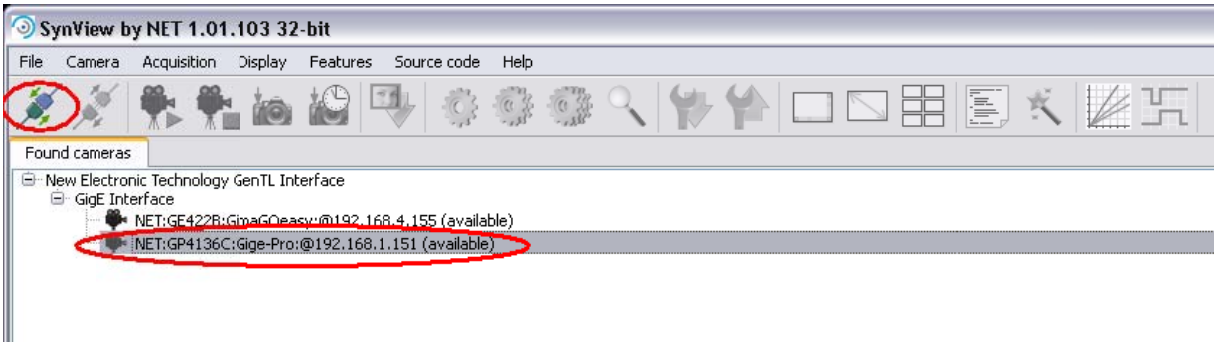

Figure 17 SynView Explorer: Connecting a camera

If the desired camera is not available, check again, if it is properly connected and powered. For GigE Vision cameras, check also the network configuration and firewall settings. SynView Explorer checks for the cameras´ existence at startup. The user can also update the camera list during the Explorer run — use the Update camera list(s) menu item.

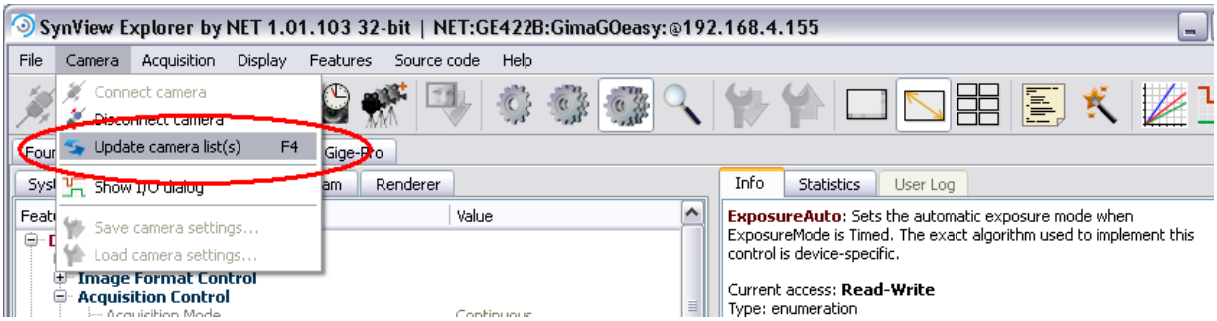

Figure 18 SynView Explorer: Updating the camera list

SynView Explorer connects the camera in an exclusive access mode, that means other applications cannot connect to this camera while it is connected by the SynView Explorer. The user can disconnect the camera and release it for other applications using . Remember to do so when reaching the Source code wizard, where the generated application will need to connect to the same camera.

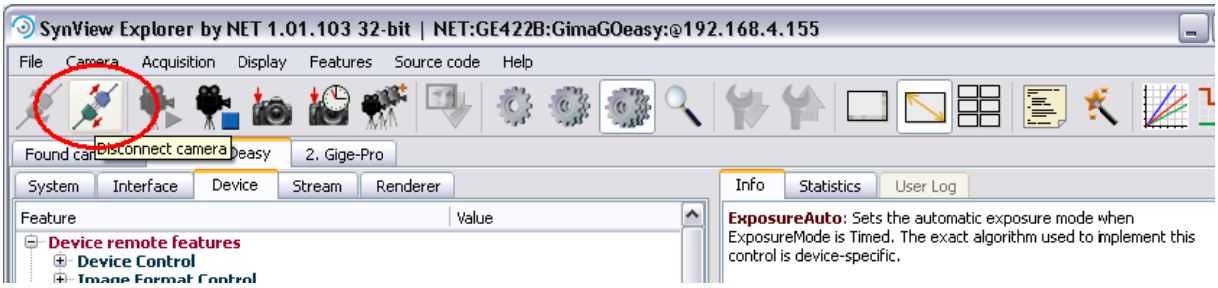

Figure 19 SynView Explorer: Disconnecting the camera

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Features

When the camera open, its feature tree is displayed, allowing configuring the camera. Actually, five feature trees are visible: from System, Interface, Device, Stream and Renderer. The role of these trees is explained in detail in the SynView programmer's guide, for the first steps use only the Device tab with the tree, containing the most important features.

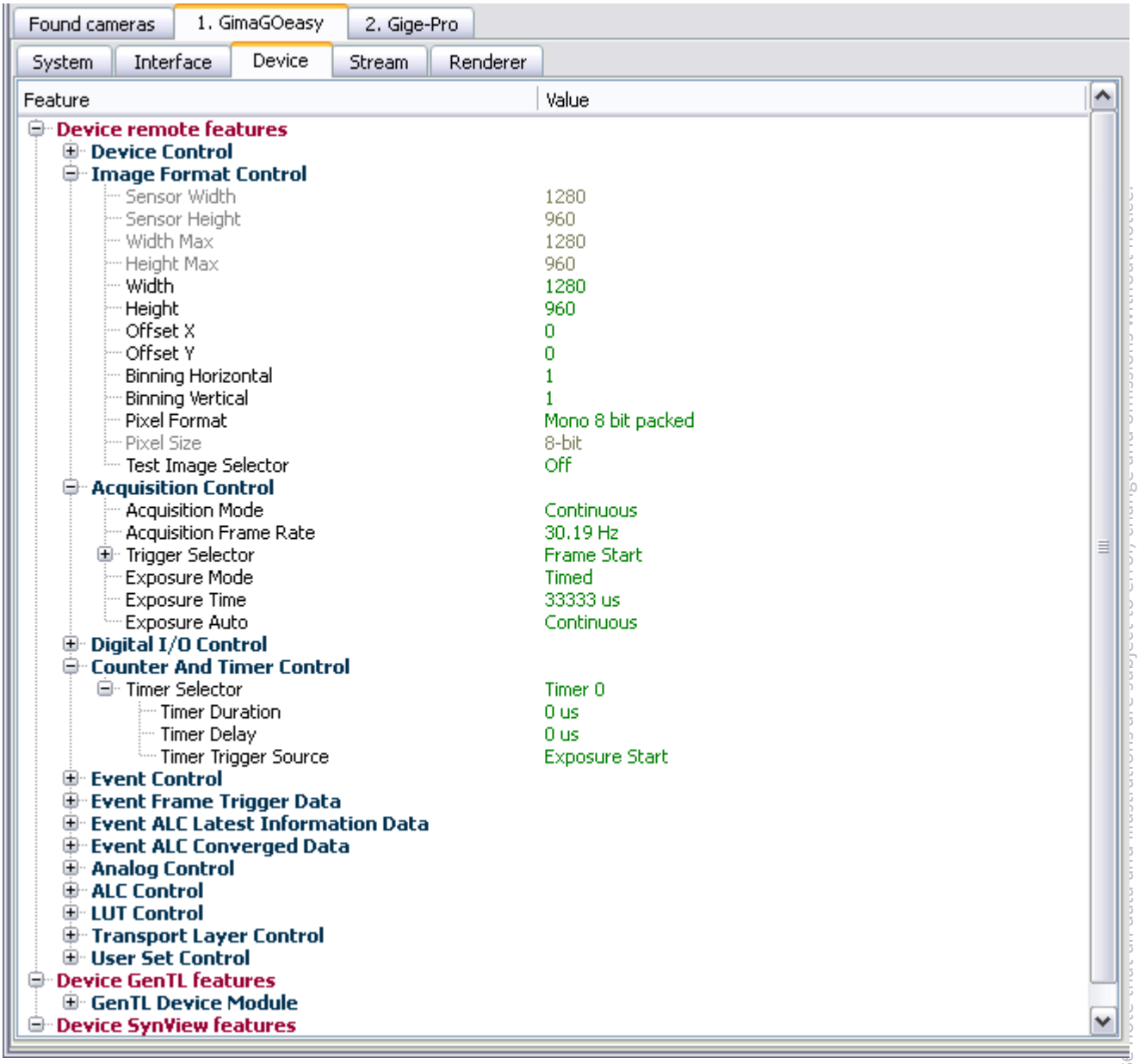

Figure 20 SynView Explorer: Device feature tree

Some of the features in the feature tree are grayed out — these are the read-only features. Other features can be modified — these are read-write features.

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This status need not be permanent, for example some features become read-only during the acquisition running (like the Width and Height device features). There are features of several types:

- a Boolean value — represented by a check box (for example Chunk Mode Active)
- an integer number — represented by a compound control with edit box, slider, inc/dec buttons (for example image Width and Height)
- a float number — also represented by a compound control with edit box, slider, inc/dec buttons (for example Exposure Time)
- an enumeration — represented by a combo box with available choices (for example Pixel Format)
- a string — represented by an edit box (for example Device User ID)
- a command — represented by a button for command execution (for example User Set Load)

Beginner-Expert-Guru level

Features are classified to 3 levels: Beginner, Expert and Guru. While the Beginner level (displayed as default) contains only a small subset of the most commonly used features, the Guru level hand includes all available features. In the menu or on the toolbar, the user can switch to the Expert or Guru level, where a larger subset or all features are displayed.

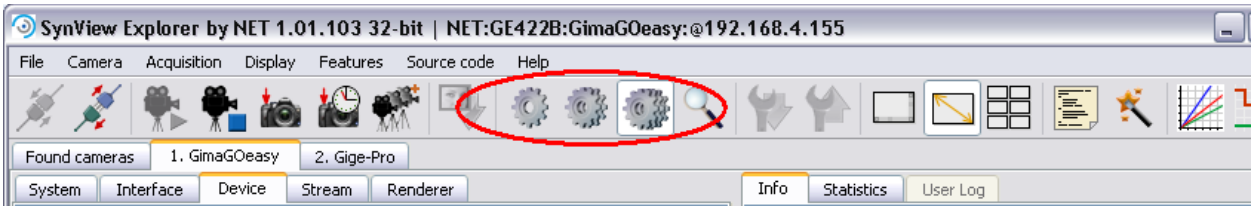


Figure 21 SynView Explorer: Feature levels

The Guru level provides a multitude of features. We recommend to use the Beginner level features only for initial experiments and switch to the Expert level, when doing more advanced tests. The Guru level should be avoided; since features in this level should not be usually touched during regular operation and altering them can lead to unexpected results.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Help for a feature

In a set of hundreds of features it may not be easy to guess the purpose of each feature. For this reason, the device provides also a description of each feature. In the Info panel the Explorer shows the description for each selected feature:

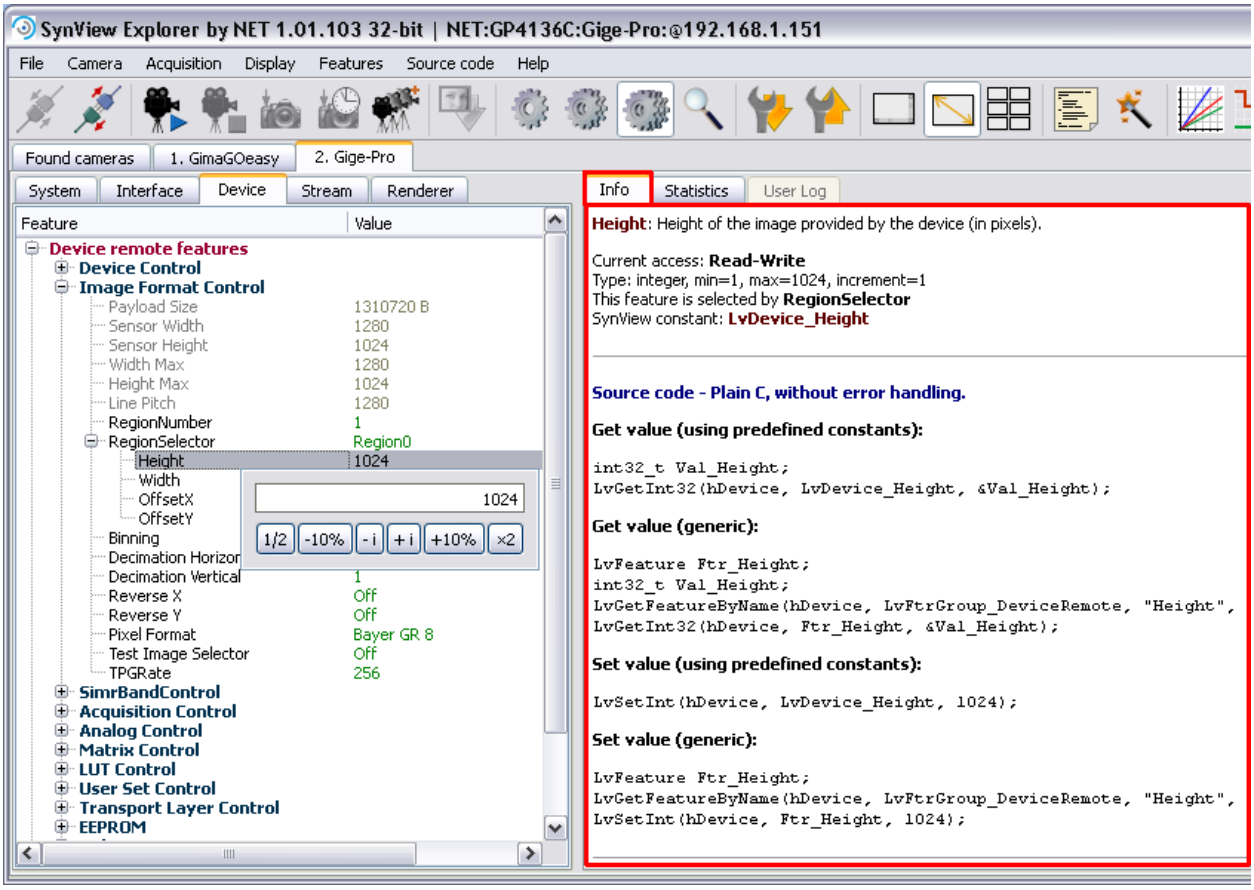


Figure 22 SynView Explorer Info panel

Device configuration

Typically, the first step is the configuation of the device parameters and then start of the acquisition. In the tree, any read-write feature can be configured simply by clicking on it — a control window pops up, enabling to change the feature. Note that the availability of one feature may depend on another —for example when the Image Width is set to Max Width, then the X Offset is not writable, because the Width + OffsetX must be less or equal to Max Width, so there is no space to increase the X Offset. However, when the Width is set smaller, the user will see that the OffsetX becomes writable and that its maximum value follows the Max Width – Width formula. Furthermore, the availability of the offsets can be dependent on current ROI Mode.

The tree of camera features follows the principles coming from the GenICam standard. Its subtleties are discussed in a dedicated "Understanding the feature tree" p.39.Getting familiar with that chapter will help you to effectively work with the camera.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Furthermore, the device configuration is also described in detail in the GigEpro Manual and CORSIGHT manual.

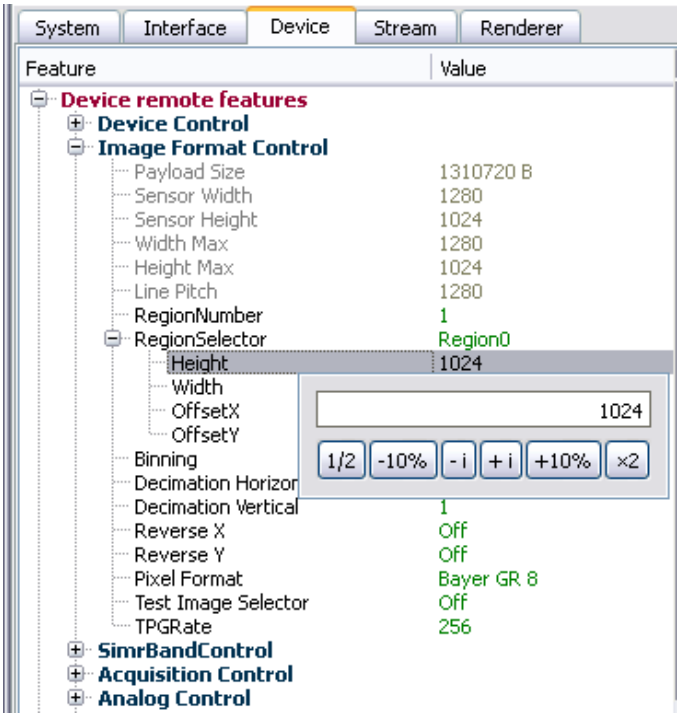


Figure 23 SynView Explorer — Setting a feature (Image Height)

Also note, that some features have so called selectors. For example the device can have several I/O ports and to configure a specific port, the user should select it by the Line Selector and then the features in the tree under this selector are used for the selected port.

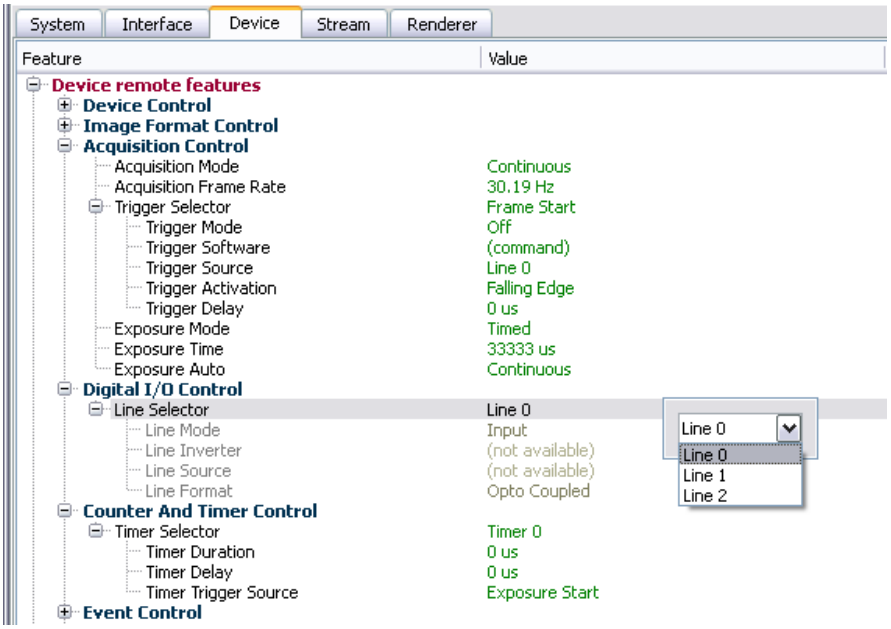


Figure 24 SynView Explorer — Using a selector (Line)

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

How to find a feature

In a complex feature tree it might be difficult to find desired feature. SynView Explorer offers a tool for finding a feature if a part of its name or display name is enterd.

Figure 25 SynView Explorer Find feature

During typing the feature name SynView Explorer updates a list of all features, in which the written substring occurs. By clicking on a feature in the list, the feature is focused in the tree.

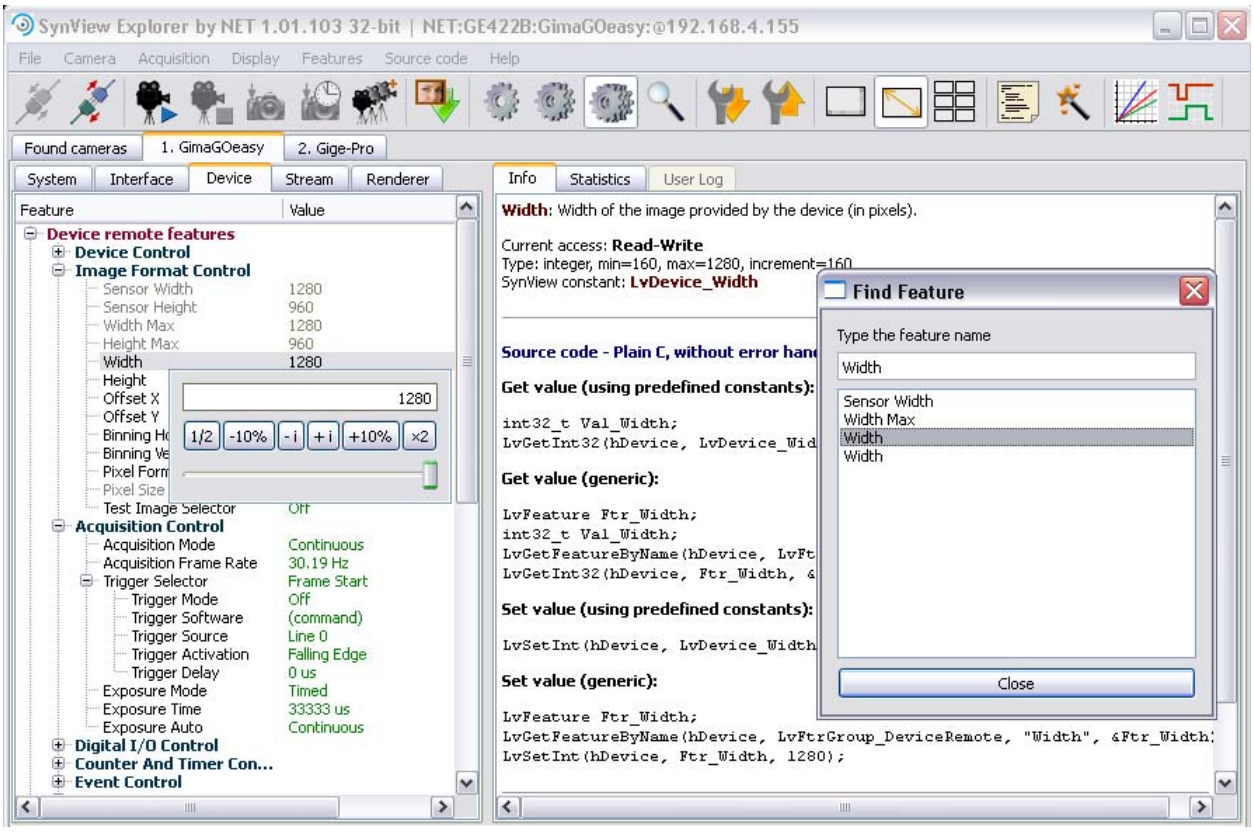


Figure 26 SynView Explorer — Find feature dialog

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Configuration: Save and Restore

It is possible to store full camera configuration (= all needed features) at any time to a file. That configuration can be then later reloaded either again in the SynView Explorer or in the user application (the SynView API provides a function to load settings). Using this functionality, the programmer does not need to care about the possible feature dependencies, SynView API handles that correctly. Furthermore, the stored configuration can be used for multiple connected cameras, provided that they are of the same type and firmware version.

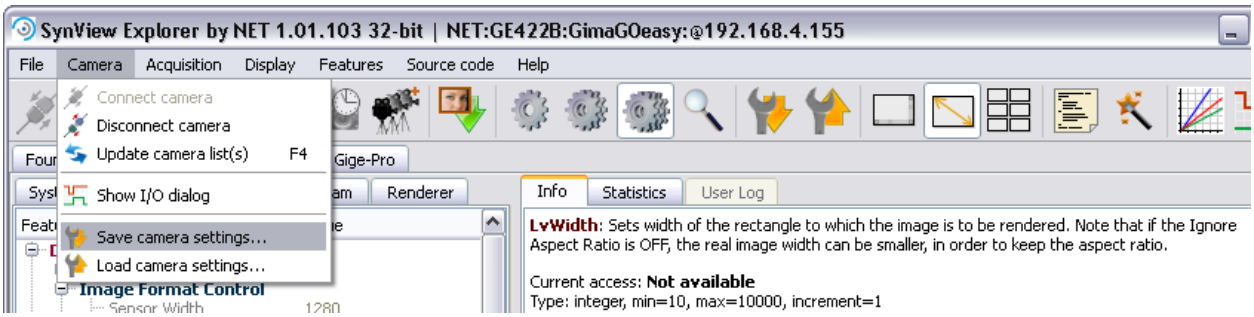


Figure 27 SynView Explorer: Save camera settings

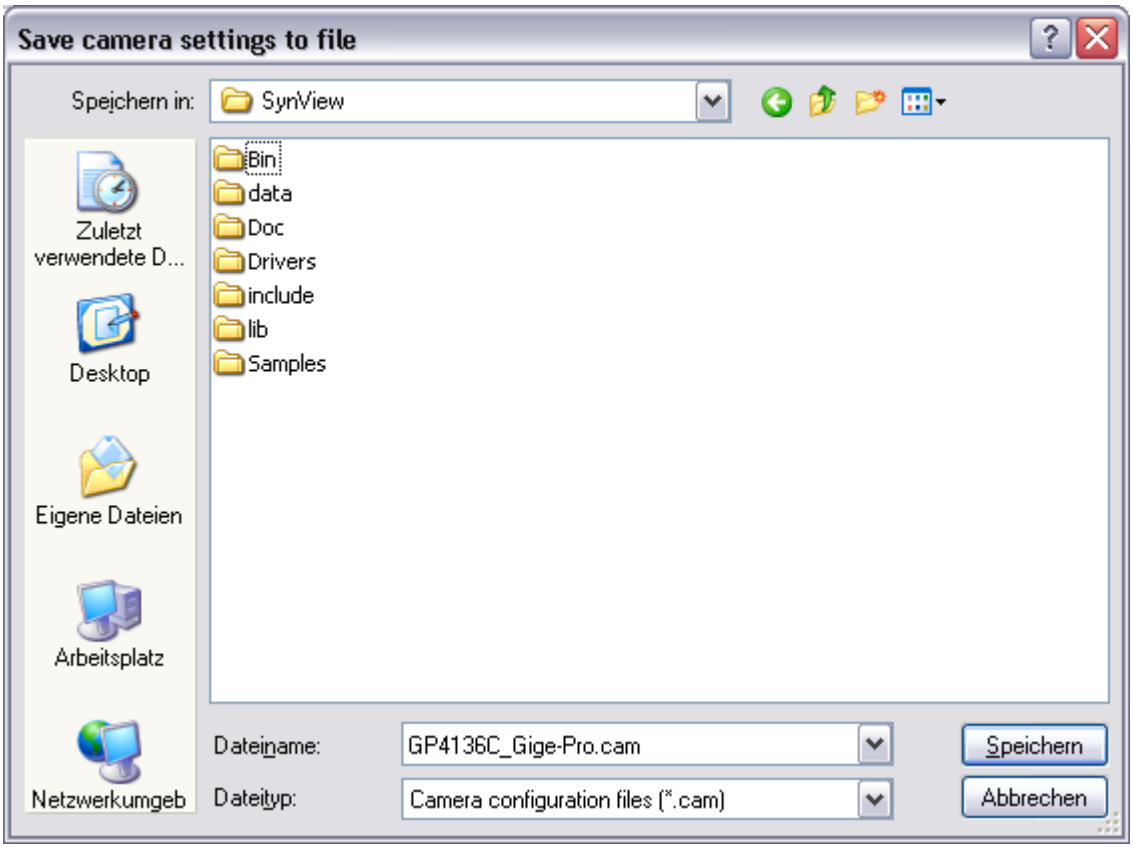


Figure 28 SynView Explorer: Save camera settings dialog

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Acquisition: Start and Stop

After configuration of the camera, the acquisition can be started by using . If the acquisition does not start as expected, review again the camera feature settings. For GigE Vision cameras, once again, the network configuration and firewall settings are to be rechecked.

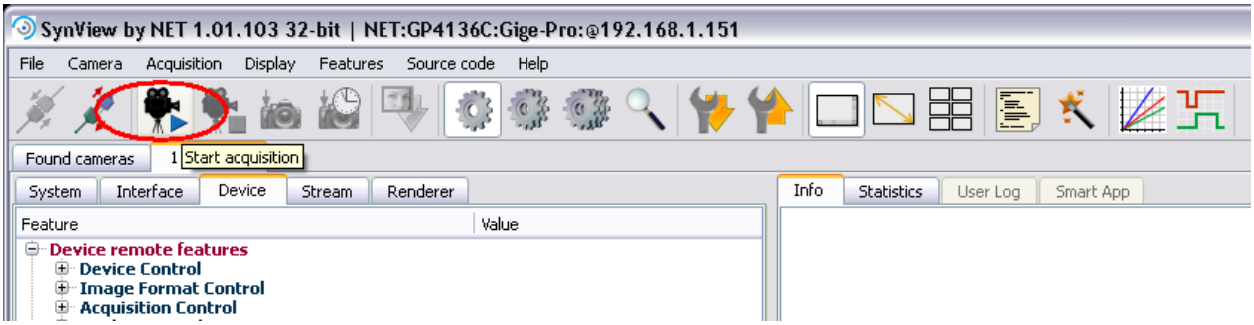


Figure 29 SynView Explorer: Start acquisition

In case the camera is configured for triggered acquisition and the Software Trigger feature becomes available, the camera can be triggered via in the toolbar:

SynView Explorer by NET 1.01.103 32-bit | NET:GP4136C:Gige-Pro:@192.168.1.151
File Camera Acquisition Display Features Source code Help
Found cameras
1. GimaGOeasy
Send software trigger
System Interface Device Stream
Info Statistics User Log
Feature
Device remote features
Device Control
TriggerSelector: Selects the type of trigger to configure.
Current access: Read-Write

Figure 30 SynView Explorer: Trigger the camera

Note that some features become read-only with the beginning of the acquisition, for example the image size can´t be changed during the acquisition. And vice-versa, other features may become usable only after the beginning of the acquisition — for example the Trigger Software command, if applying the triggered mode. The acquisition can be stopped through .

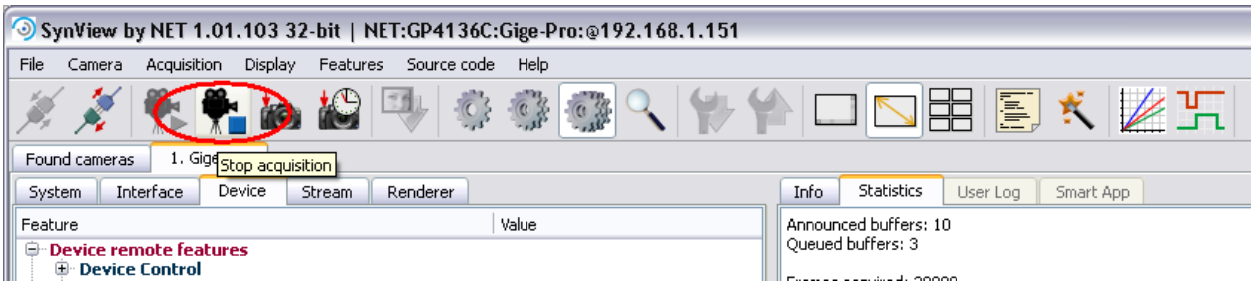


Figure 31 SynView Explorer: Stop acquisition

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Display of images

The way how SynView Explorer displays the acquired images can be configured — the available options are full size (if the image does not fit in the display area, scroll bars are added), scale to fit (image is scaled to fit to the display area) and tiled display (SynView Explorer displays series of consecutive images in tiles). Note that the scale to fit and tile modes might not be available in Linux. To be configured through the Display menu or corresponding buttons.

Figure 32 SynView Explorer: Display modes

Automatic image pre-processing

SynView Explorer makes automatic image pre-processing. This includes the Bayer decoding for color cameras, applying the LUT (Lookup Table), to which can be added parameters like white balance, gamma, brightness and contrast, and the color correction, by which can be adjusted the saturation. SynView automatically determines, if the required functionality is available in camera hardware, and if not, does the necessary operations by software (this increases the CPU load). The automatic processing is by default switched on. It can be can switched off in the menu:

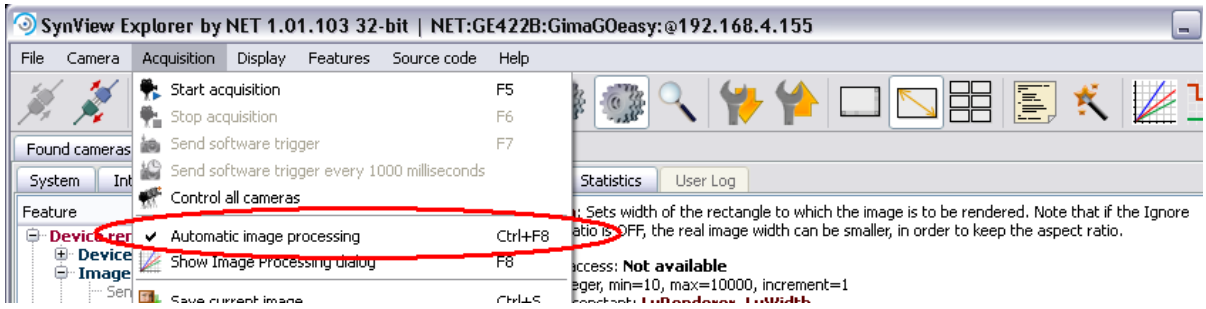


Figure 33 SynView Explorer: Automatic image processing

A dialog is displayable, where the processing parameters can be adjusted:

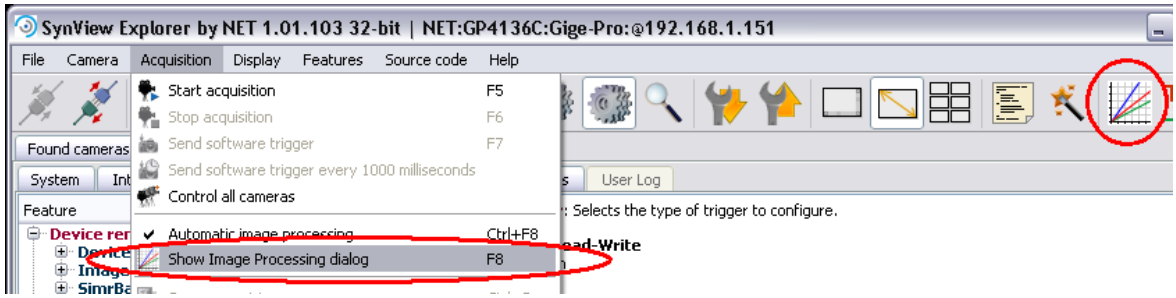


Figure 34 SynView Explorer: Show image processing dialog

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

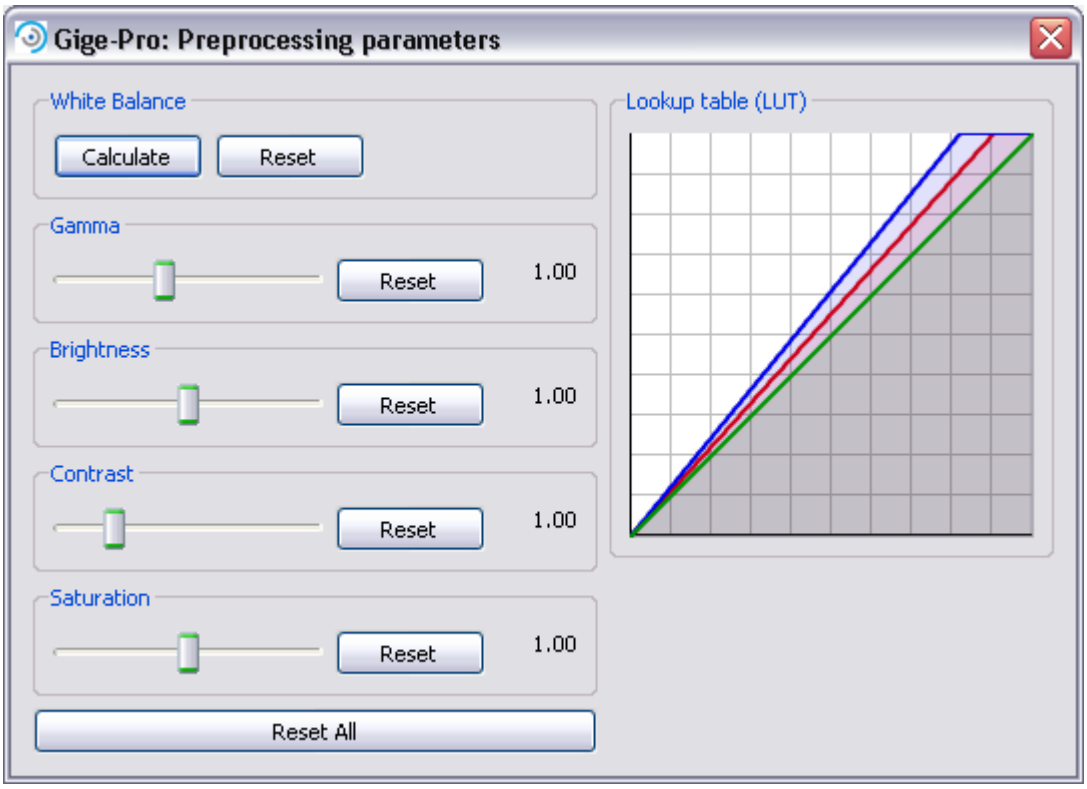


Figure 35 SynView Explorer: Image processing dialog

Note that the white balance factors are always calculated from the next acquired image, so after pressing "Calculate" button the user will not see a change until a new image is acquired.

Saving acquired image

When the acquisition is stopped, the last acquired image can be saved as a BMP, TIFF or JPEG file. If automatic processing switched on, the processed image is saved, and otherwise the original image is saved. Before saving, the image is converted to suitable pixel format, for example when saving an image with a 12-bit mono pixel format as a BMP or JPEG file it is automatically converted to 8-bit mono pixel format; in case of a TIFF file it is converted to 16-bit mono pixel format.

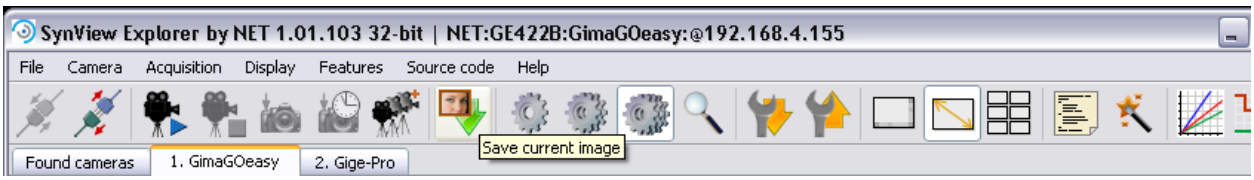


Figure 36 SynView Explorer: Save image

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Select the image format in the Save image dialog:

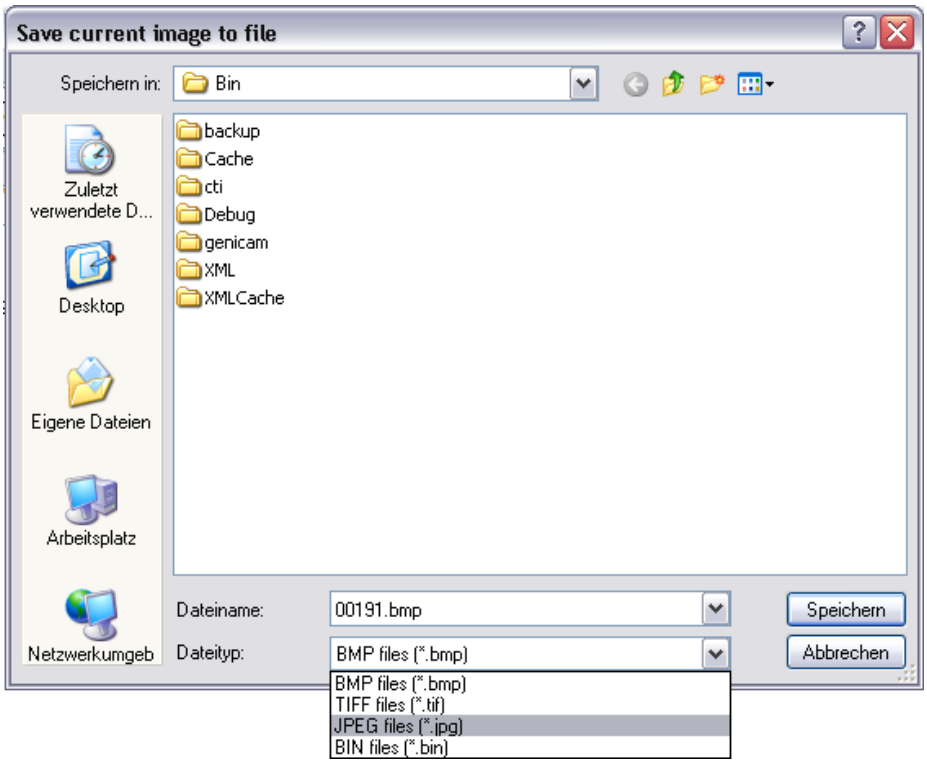


Figure 37 SynView Explorer: Save image dialog

Settings

SynView Explorer settings are available in the menu:

Figure 38 SynView Explorer: Settings

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

The following settings are available:

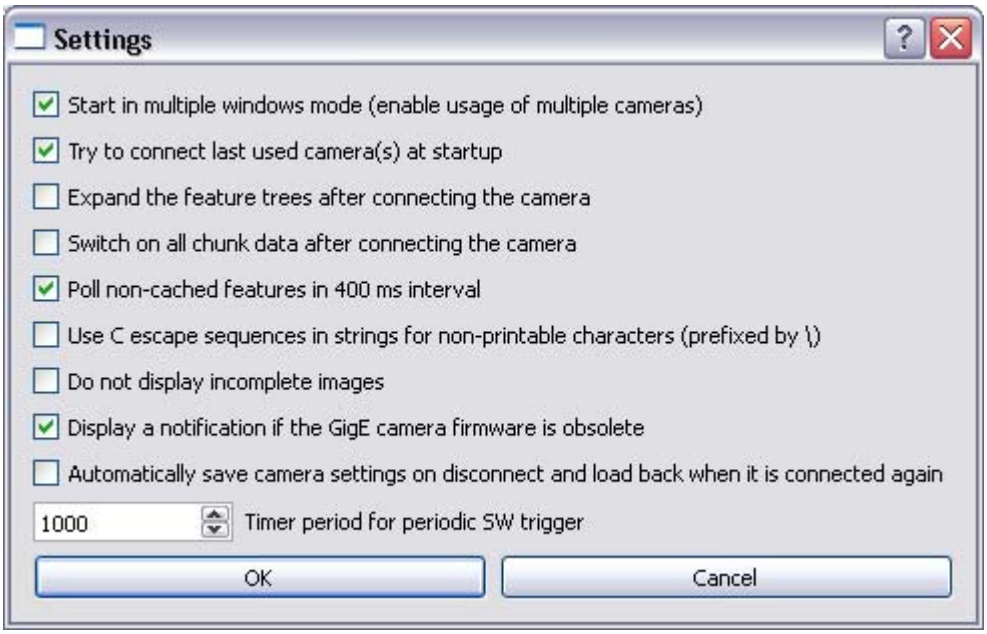

Settings
Start in multiple windows mode (enable usage of multiple cameras)
Try to connect last used camera(s) at startup
Expand the feature trees after connecting the camera
Switch on all chunk data after connecting the camera
Poll non-cached features in 400 ms interval
Use C escape sequences in strings for non-printable characters (prefixed by \)
Do not display incomplete images
Display a notification if the GigE camera firmware is obsolete
Automatically save camera settings on disconnect and load back when it is connected again
1000
Timer period for periodic SW trigger
OK
Cancel

Figure 39 SynView Explorer: Settings dialog

- Start in multiple windows mode (enable usage of multiple cameras). If ON, SynView Explorer starts in multiple window mode enabling concurrent usage of multiple cameras. If OFF, it starts in a compact, single window mode, enabling to connect one camera only. This settings applies to the next SynView Explorer start (does not have an immediate effect).
- Try to connect last used camera at startup. If closing the SynView Explorer without explicitly disconnecting the camera and this option is ON, the Explorer will attempt to automatically connect the same camera next time it is run (if the camera is still available).
- Expand the feature trees after connecting the camera. By default the trees are displayed as collapsed, that means only the top level items are displayed. If this option is set as "ON", all trees are fully expanded when the camera is connected.
- Switch on all chunk data after connecting the camera. If the camera delivers chunk data with each image and this option is ON, the Explorer automatically switches on all available chunk data features. If this option is not used, the selected chunk data features can be switched on manually. Some of the chunk data are displayed automatically in a line above the image.

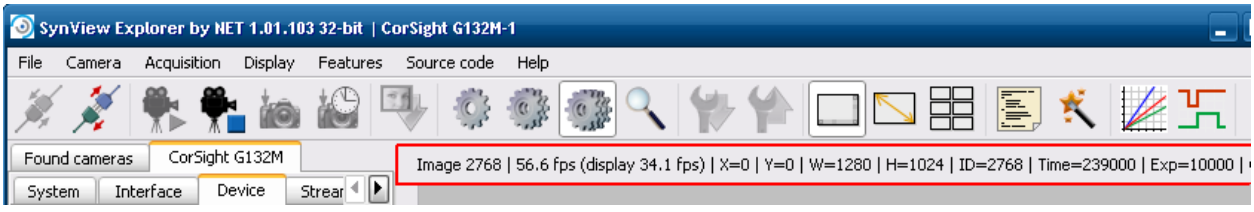


Figure 40 Chunk data

- Poll non-cached features in 400 ms interval. If set to ON, the Explorer polls the non-cached features (such as Device Temperature or Up Time) with the minimum period of 400 ms and updates their values in the feature tree.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

- Use C escape sequences in strings for non-printable characters. If some of the string features need to apply a non-printable character (e.g. strings sent via RS-232 port), this option can be switched to ON for writing and recognizing such characters. Then a C language escape sequence syntax is used for non-printable characters. The sequence begins with a backslash followed by a single letter (r = Carriage Return, n = Line Feed, etc.), or a number in form of x + 2 hexadecimal digits or 3 decimal digits. The number expresses the character ordinal number. A backslash itself must be written as double backslashes.

```
\ + letter (b, t, n, v, f, r)
\ + xNN hexadecimal number
\ + NNN decimal number

\\ = \x5C = \092 (backslash)
\b = \x08 = \008 (backspace)
\t = \x09 = \009 (tab)
\n = \x0A = \010 (line feed)
\v = \x0B = \011 (vertical tab)
\f = \x0C = \012 (form feed)
\r = \x0D = \013 (carriage return)
```

Source code generator

SynView Explorer also provides a powerful set of tools for generating the source code. The detailed information about the developer assistive tools with guidelines how to use them during development is provided in the SynView source code generator chapter in the SynView programmer's guide.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Important principles of the SynView interface

Understanding the feature tree

The “feature tree” is one of the most important patterns used within SynView. It is a tree of interdependent features used to configure individual hardware and SynView components, with a GenApi mechanism running under the hood. It is important to understand different aspects of the feature tree functionality to be able to configure the system effectively and reliably.

Feature tree instances

The feature tree paradigm is reused to configure the devices and various software components. It is important to understand that the set of supported features can vary significantly among different hardware (camera) models or even among different revisions of the same model. SynView Explorer displays all available feature tree instances, allowing configuring the entire system intuitively. The guide how to control individual features programmatically is provided in SynView programmer's guide.

Remote device features
Set of features used to configure every single device connected to the system. This feature tree is designed by the device manufacturer (by means of the GenICam standard) and SynView just exposes it to the user. The “device” is typically a camera, but it can be any configurable device connected to the system.

GenTL Producer features
Features the configuration of the GenTL Producer, which can be either directly SynView GenTL Producer or a 3rd party GenTL Producer controlling cameras of another vendor. There is one feature tree available for each distinct component describing the acquisition system:

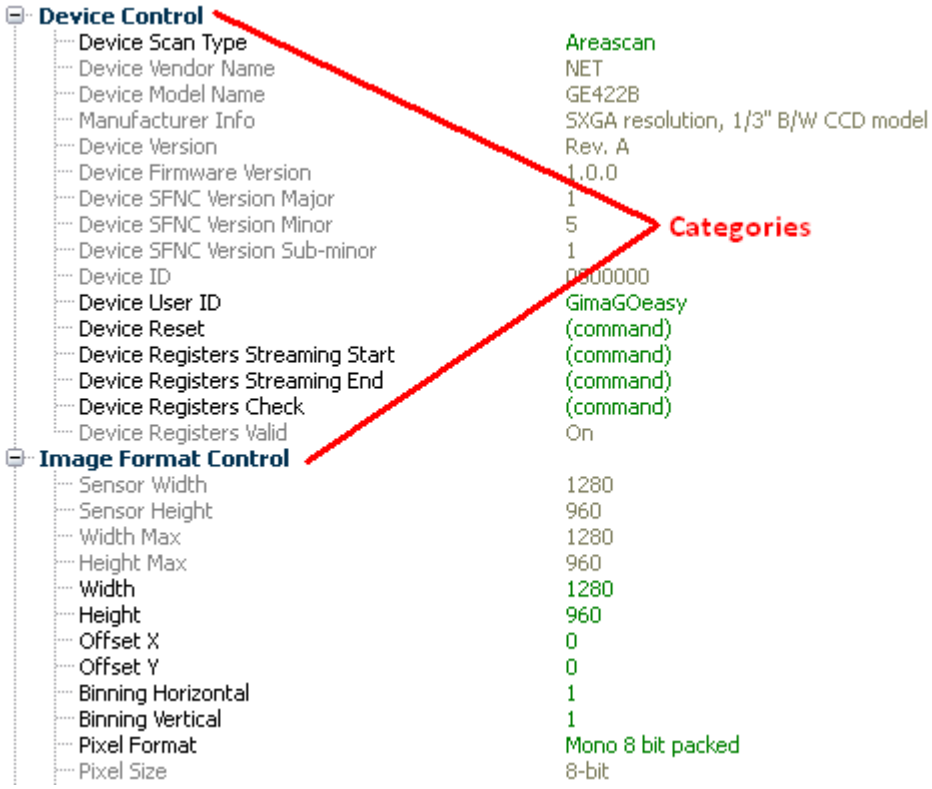
- System. Represents a GenTL Producer library. In most cases, there will be just a single system module available — representing the SynView GenTL Producer.
- Interface. Describes a physical interface used to connect cameras, for example a network segment interfacing GigE Vision cameras or a bus interfacing the CORSIGHT camera modules.
- Device. Software representation of a device connected to the system.
- Data stream. Controls the stream of the image data coming from the device. In most cases there will be just a single data stream per device, but there might be devices featuring multiple data streams.
- Buffer. Allows to query information about individual image buffers.

SynView API features
On top of the configuration options provided by the camera itself (and eventually the supporting GenTL Producer library), SynView API also adds a rich set of features, which are also controlled through a feature tree. Again, SynView would provide a separate feature tree per component.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Categories

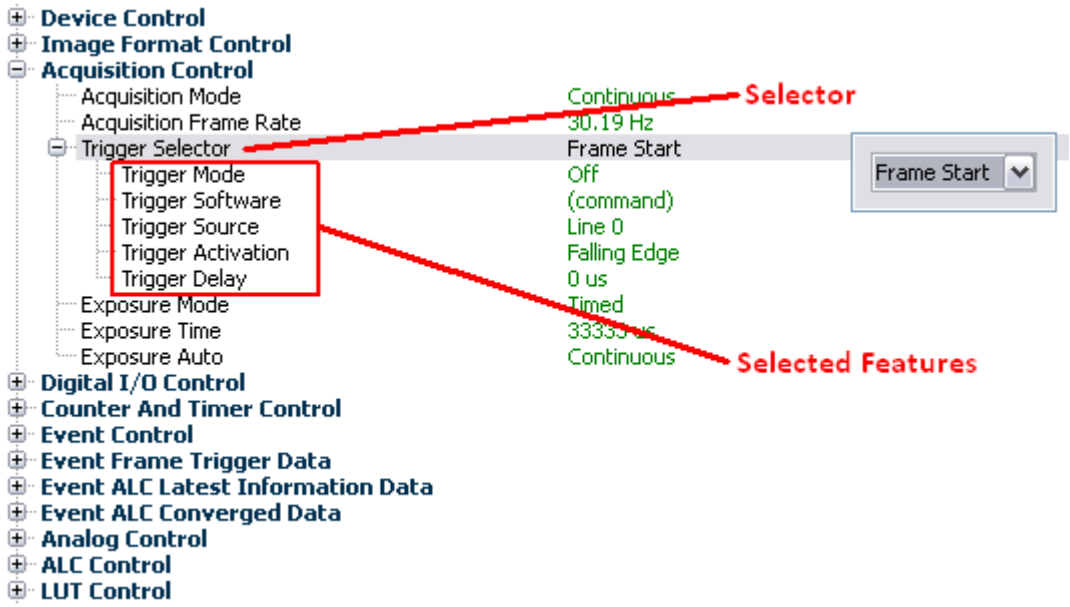
The features are sorted into categories, grouping together related parameters. The only purpose of categories is to improve the visual representation of a complex feature tree. From programmer's perspective (access of individual features), the categories are not important.



Selectors

Selectors are features controlling sets or arrays of identical features.
A selector can be viewed as an analogy of an array index. Similarly as changing an array index does not by itself modify any value stored in the array, changing a selector does never modify the selected features — it does not alter the actual camera status.
For example, switching the LineSelector value does not at all change configuration of the I/O lines. It just selects the line to be configured through the “selected” features, such as LineSource or LineInverter.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

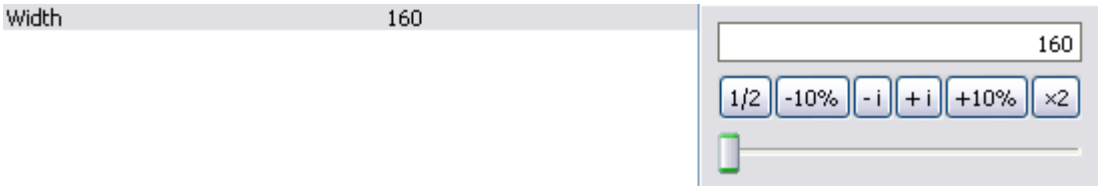


Feature interface types

Depending on the purpose of respective features, they can be represented through different inter faces.

Integer

Up to 64-bit integer value, which can have assigned min/max values and an increment (or a set of allowed values). The feature values must respect these constraints — if the application tries to set an invalid value, SynView API readjusts it to the closest valid one.



Float

Floating point number with optional min/max (or set of allowed values). For visualization purposes (slider in a GUI representation), the floating point features can also have an increment, but unlike with integers, setting the values aligned with the increment is not forced. The camera can, however, realign the value internally to a closest valid discrete value — the application can re-read the feature after setting to know the actually used exact value.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Enumeration

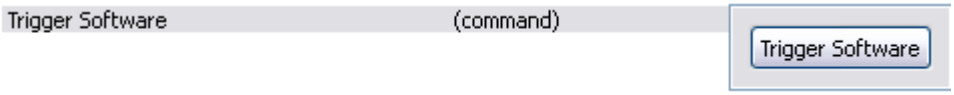
Feature allowing selecting from given set of entries. Some of the entries might have self-clearing behavior — they reset automatically to another entry. This behavior is similar to a command feature.

Boolean

Simple flags that can have only two values, true or false.

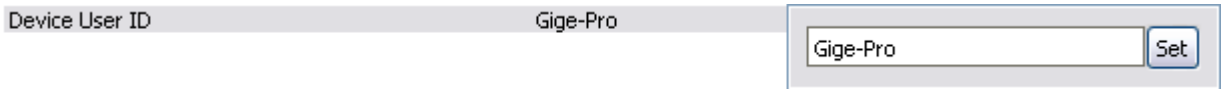
Command

Purpose of the command features is to init various actions (start acquisition, calibration, automatic white balance etc.). The command feature provides feedback when the action is finished.



String

String (character) based features.



Register

Memory blob with unspecified representation. Can be used for example to load/save the entire LUT in a single feature access.

Feature properties

The features have also additional properties, some of them dynamic, which can change during operation, others static (remain fixed during runtime). SynView API provides access to all these properties.

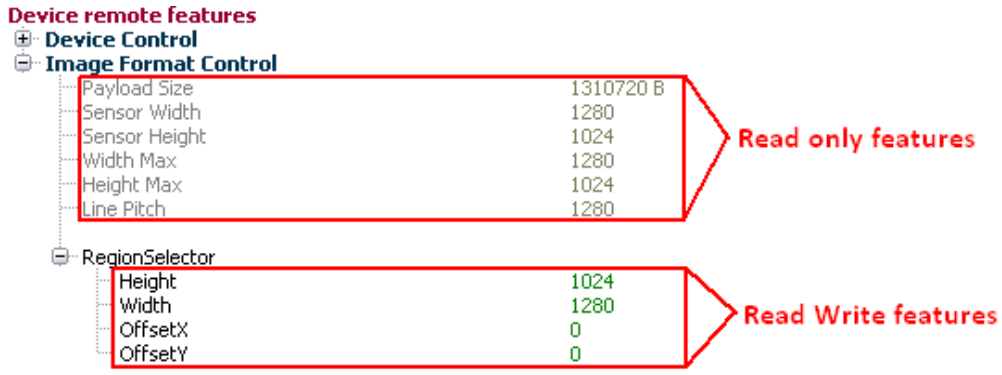
Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Dynamic properties

Access mode

The access mode specifies, whether the feature is available for reading and/or writing. It is important to know that the access mode can change during runtime, eg. based on other features. For example if TriggerMode is switched off, the depending features, such as TriggerSource might become unavailable. Note that in a GUI representation (eg. in the SynView Explorer), the temporarily unavailable or locked (read-only) features might be rendered for example as grayed or even disappear. Possible access modes are:

- Not implemented. The feature is not implemented. It will stay in this status during the entire operation. Features with this access mode will not be displayed at all in SynView Explorer GUI.
- Not available. The feature is temporarily unavailable (cannot be read nor written). It can become available later, typically based on other features in the same feature tree.
- Read only. The feature value is available for reading but not for writing.
- Write only. The feature value is available for writing but not for reading.
- Read-write. The feature value can be both read and written.



Caching

The feature values are cached internally, which is important especially when working with remote devices, such as GigE Vision cameras, so that the same value does not need to be re-read always over the network. The feature tree knows when it can use the case for every feature and when the cache should be invalidated. The application can rely fully on this mechanism without need to maintain own feature cache — SynView will communicate with the remote device only when necessary, thus optimizing the performance. Furthermore, it is useful to distinguish between three types of features from the caching point of view:

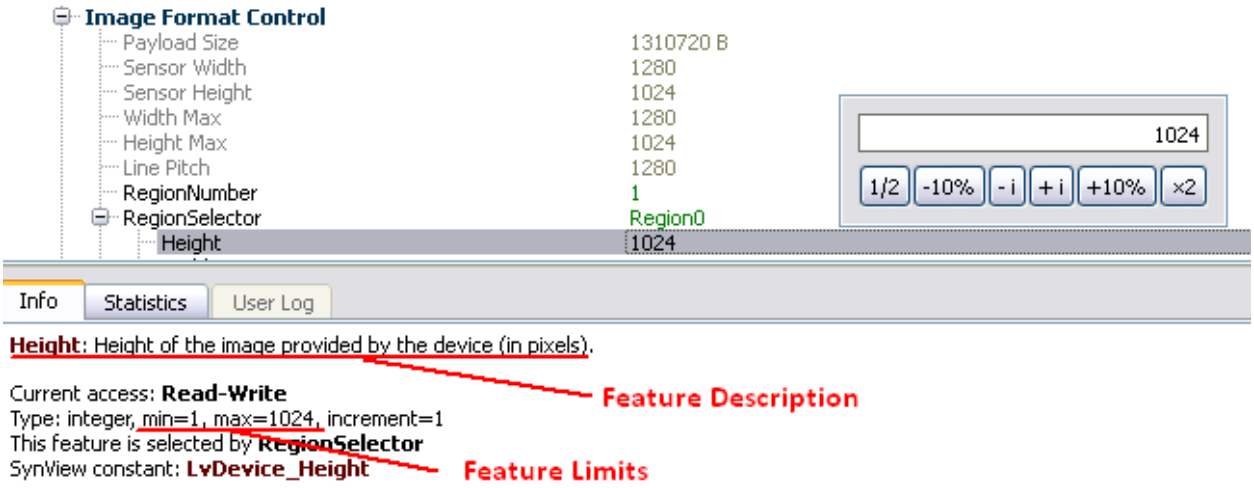
- Write-through caching. Cached during write operation. This is the case for most features; the exact feature value is used.
- Write-around caching. Cached during read operation. Used typically for certain float features of the remote device, when the camera needs to readjust the value to a closest valid one. If the application needs to know the exact used value, it has to re-read the feature value immediately after writing.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

- No caching. The value is not cached at all. Used for volatile features such as sensor temperature or similar. The application has to start SynView API polling thread to get the non-cached features updated regularly. Some features might switch to non-cached mode temporarily, for example the gain value will become non-cached when automatic gain mode is active.

Limits

Integer and float features have minimum, maximum and an increment (the increment is optional for floats). The feature value must fall within these limits. Remember that the limits can change during runtime, depending on other features.



Static properties

Unit

String representation of the physical unit represented by the value.

Display format

Provides hint for graphical representation of the feature value, such as whether the feature has linear or logarithmic behavior, if it should be displayed in decimal or hex form, etc.

Info texts

Each feature gets a display name (human readable name of the feature), tooltip (short info) and a description (longer info). These are useful again especially for display and user interaction.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Feature dependencies

The feature tree knows about possibly complex dependencies between individual features. Changing value of one feature can affect other feature(s) in following ways:

- Change other feature's value — for a feature which is a direct function of the first one.
- Change other feature's limits — eg. increasing a horizontal offset for the image' area of interest decreases maximum of the image width.
- Change other feature's access mode — eg. when disabling a trigger, individual trigger parameters might become unavailable, when starting acquisition, basic acquisition parameters might become locked.
- Change other feature's effective caching mode — eg. gain value is cached for the “manual” mode, but non-cached for the “automatic” gain mode.
- Invalidate the other feature — disabling its cache, for example when resetting the camera to a default status, all feature values must be re-read from the camera rather than from the now-invalid cache.

To understand the feature tree behavior and treat it properly, it is essential to remember about the possible feature relationships among certain features. The feature tree handles everything for the user seamlessly, but note that the feature status can change based on other features and that for some feature groups the order of writing the features might be significant. To simplify work with such features, SynView API provides helper functions allowing setting the entire feature group in a single call or even store/reload entire camera configuration.

Chunk data based features

So called “chunk data” are additional data that a camera can deliver to the buffer together with an image. These data can contain information such as image timestamp, frame ID or acquisition parameters used to capture given image. These data can are also part of the feature tree — but they are not read by querying the camera's current status, but rather directly from the buffer itself. The feature tree internal logic knows how to access these additional data in the buffer. SynView API provides functions allowing specifying the “active” buffer that should be connected to the feature tree.

Event based features

Besides the image and chunk data, the remote device (camera) can also fire asynchronous events. These are useful for variety of purposes, including reporting of asynchronous error and status info, sending log messages and more. The event itself usually caries also additional data describing the event. These data are, yet again, integrated into the feature tree. SynView API provides notifications about each received event, so that the application can track them and possibly query the data associated with every event.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Feature update notifications in general

The application can instruct the SynView API to provide notification whenever the status of a given feature changes. The notification would be delivered when feature value has changed, as well as for other status updates (new access mode, feature cache invalidated, etc.).

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Installation details

This chapter provides detailed overview of SynView installation process for all supported operating systems. For an express Windows based installation (when details are not important for the user), please jump to "**Quick start**" p.7.

Before installation

It is important to know, that the system might not be immediately ready to use after the installation. The hardware (cameras) might need some basic configuration, as well as the system itself — eg. when using the GigEpro cameras, the network and firewall must be properly configured. The details are always listed in the hardware manual of each respective hardware type. The basics are summarized in Section "**Connecting and configuring the camera(s)**" p.7.

Installation in Windows

System requirements

The SynView for Windows does not have any particular system requirements; the installer will install all the necessary dependencies, including the .NET Framework runtime. SynView is compatible with all "recent" Windows versions, including Windows 7 or Windows XP. Note that Windows versions older than Windows XP are not supported.

Note: The SynView package installation should be performed by a user with administrator rights.

Media

The SynView package can be installed from two types of installation media:

- Installation CD-ROM: insert it to the CD-ROM drive. The installation will start automatically.
- Installation CD-ROM is not available or installation of a newer SynView version: download the installer from the download area on NET´s website: http://www.net-gmbh.com/en/download/

The installer file name follows pattern SynViewxyyzzz.exe, where xyyzzz stands for SynView version. Execute the installer. Depending on security adjustments of the user´s system and whether the user runs the installer from a local disk or a network share, the following security warning might appear. Proceed by clicking "Yes".

1

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

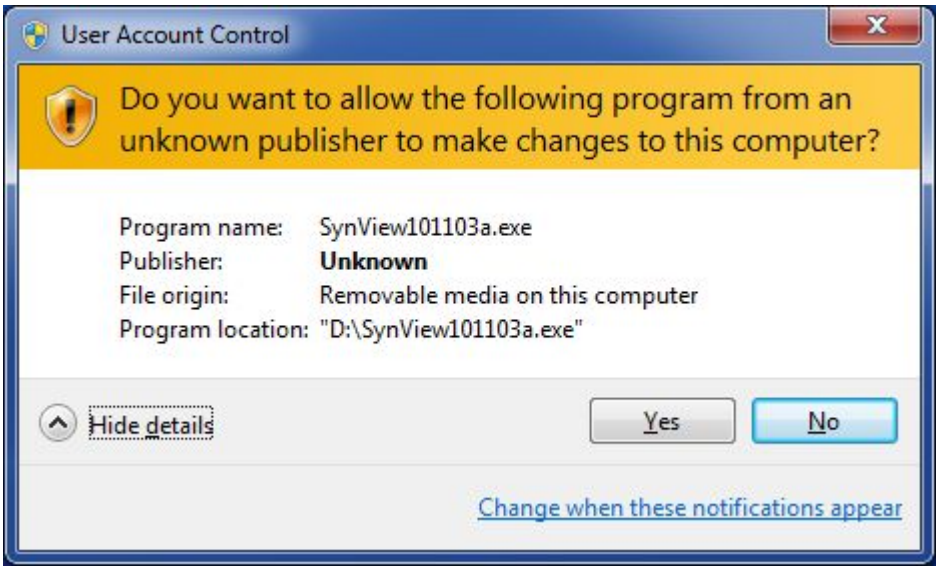
User Account Control
Do you want to allow the following program from an unknown publisher to make changes to this computer?
Program name: SynView101103a.exe
Publisher: Unknown
File origin: Removable media on this computer
Program location: "D:\SynView101103a.exe"
Hide details
Yes
No
Change when these notifications appear

Figure 41 SynView installation: Windows security warning

Procedure

The paragraphs below discuss all the dialogs of SynView's Windows installer and corresponding options. Note that some details might slightly differ between individual SynView versions, but the principles will always be the same. The installer first displays a welcome screen with basic information about the software. Click "Next" to proceed.

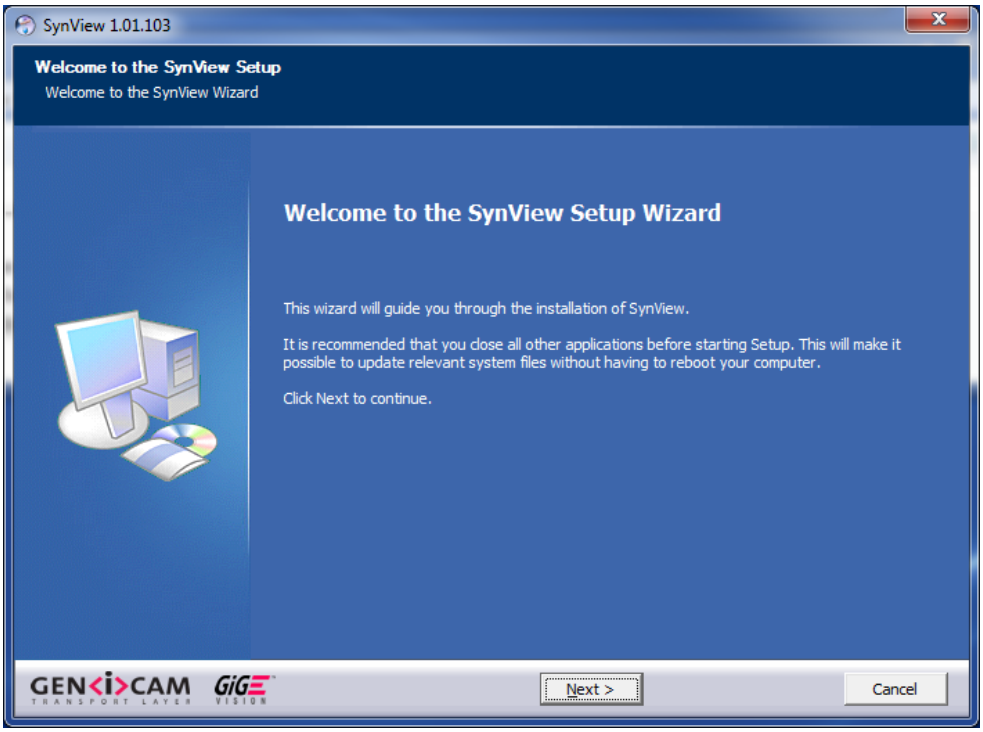
SynView 1.01.103
Welcome to the SynView Setup
Welcome to the SynView Wizard
Welcome to the SynView Setup Wizard
This wizard will guide you through the installation of SynView.
It is recommended that you close all other applications before starting Setup. This will make it possible to update relevant system files without having to reboot your computer.
Click Next to continue.
GEN<i>CAM
GiGE VISION
Next >
Cancel

Figure 42 SynView installation: welcome screen

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Please read carefully the license text and click the "I Agree" button to proceed with installation for confirmation . Then the user´s full agreement with the license text is assumed.

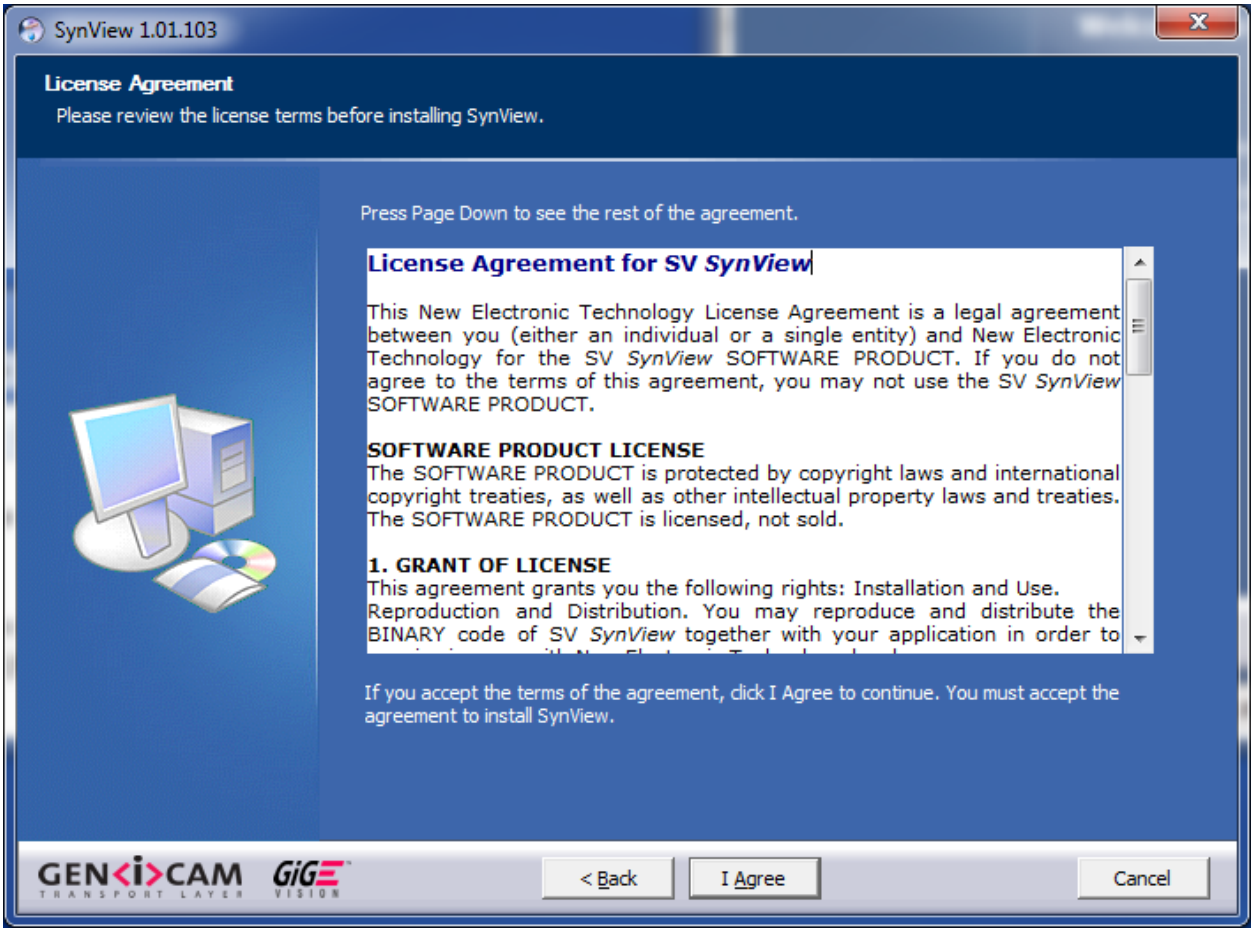
SynView 1.01.103
License Agreement
Please review the license terms before installing SynView.
Press Page Down to see the rest of the agreement.
License Agreement for SV SynView
This New Electronic Technology License Agreement is a legal agreement between you (either an individual or a single entity) and New Electronic Technology for the SV SynView SOFTWARE PRODUCT. If you do not agree to the terms of this agreement, you may not use the SV SynView SOFTWARE PRODUCT.
SOFTWARE PRODUCT LICENSE
The SOFTWARE PRODUCT is protected by copyright laws and international copyright treaties, as well as other intellectual property laws and treaties. The SOFTWARE PRODUCT is licensed, not sold.
1. GRANT OF LICENSE
This agreement grants you the following rights: Installation and Use. Reproduction and Distribution. You may reproduce and distribute the BINARY code of SV SynView together with your application in order to
If you accept the terms of the agreement, click I Agree to continue. You must accept the agreement to install SynView.
GEN<i>CAM
GiGE VISION
< Back
I Agree
Cancel

Figure 43 SynView installation: license agreement

Next the installer asks about the location where to install SynView. The default location C:\Program Files\SynView should do well in most cases. If another directory is prefered, select it now. When finished, click the "Next" button.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

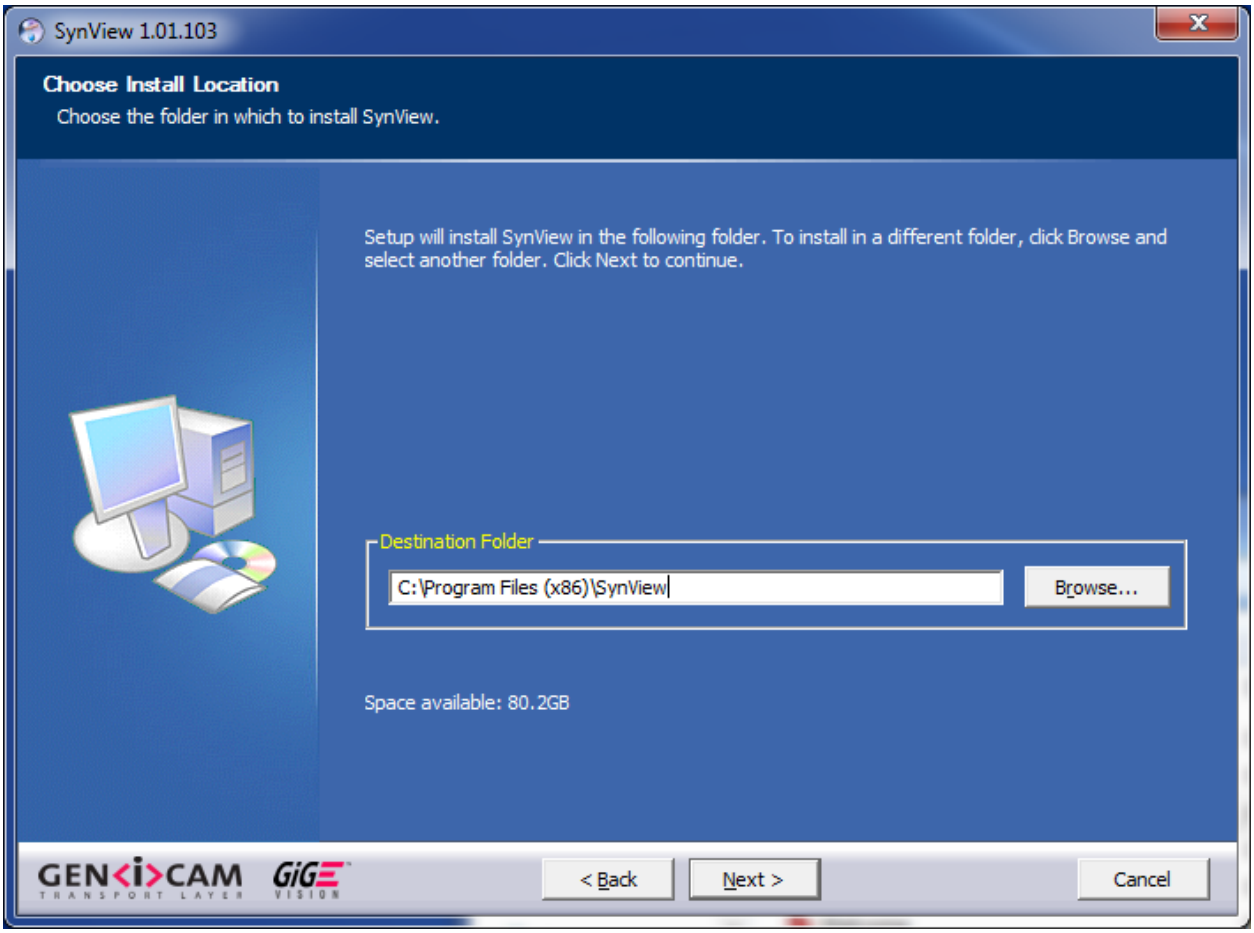
SynView 1.01.103
Choose Install Location
Choose the folder in which to install SynView.
Setup will install SynView in the following folder. To install in a different folder, click Browse and select another folder. Click Next to continue.
Destination Folder
C:\Program Files (x86)\SynView
Browse...
Space available: 80.2GB
< Back
Next >
Cancel

Figure 44 SynView installation: destination directory

If running Windows 7 or newer Windows version, the default software installation directory (C:\Program Files) is read only for regular applications. SynView, however, requires write access for certain files during operation (“Installation layout“ p.54). Therefore the installer asks where to put the application data requiring write access.

Note that in Windows versions older than Windows Vista (in particular in Windows XP) the C:\Program Files area is not protected and therefore all data can go to a single directory. Also, when installing to a non-standard location (outside C:\Program Files), the installer assumes the user chooses a writable area and installs everything to that directory. The dialog will be omitted in these cases.

Choose from these options:

- C:\Users\Public\SynView: recommended when SynView will be used by multiple users.
- C:\Users\YourUserName\AppData\Local\SynView: recommended when SynView will be used by a single user.

User configured directory — if none of the options above fit the user´s requirements, another directory can be specify. Be sure the directory has write access to all applications and is not protected by UAC.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Select the preferred option and click "Next":

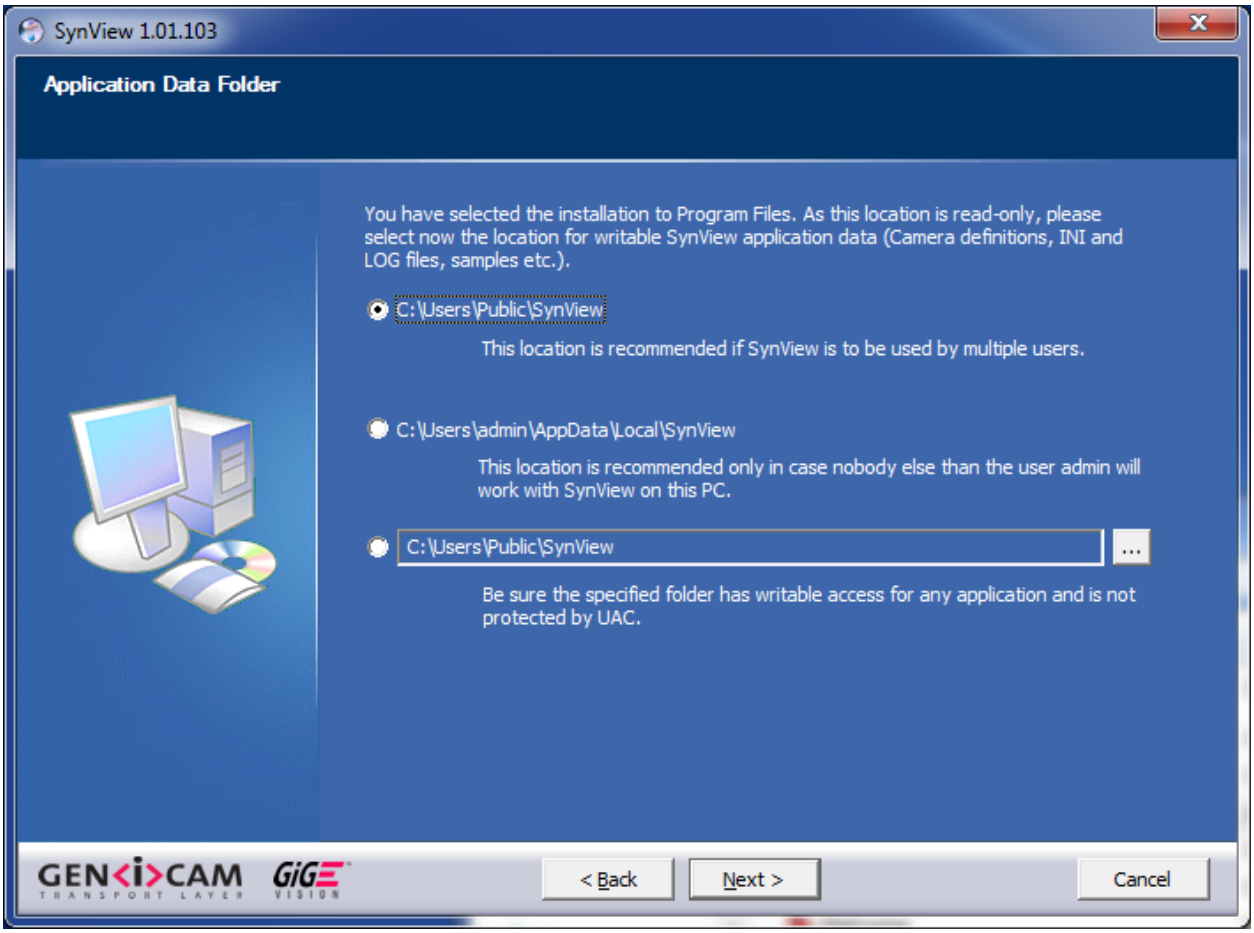
SynView 1.01.103
Application Data Folder
You have selected the installation to Program Files. As this location is read-only, please select now the location for writable SynView application data (Camera definitions, INI and LOG files, samples etc.).
C:\Users\Public\SynView
This location is recommended if SynView is to be used by multiple users.
C:\Users\admin\AppData\Local\SynView
This location is recommended only in case nobody else than the user admin will work with SynView on this PC.
C:\Users\Public\SynView
...
Be sure the specified folder has writable access for any application and is not protected by UAC.
GEN<i>CAM
GiGE VISION
< Back
Next >
Cancel

Figure 45 SynView installation: application data directory

In the next step select the SynView components to install. The set of actual options can slightly differ among individual SynView versions. The basic options are:

- Runtime files — files necessary to run every SynView application, these are always installed.
- Development files — essential files for compiling against SynView API as well as additional helper files. Files in this category are typically installed only on a development system, but not deployed with final runtime systems.
    - Include and library files — required for building SynView API applications.
    - Sample code
- Documentation — full documentation set for SynView package and all NET camera families.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Note that for testing the cameras, the “runtime” components suffice. However, for programming with SynView make sure the Developer's tools are installed as well. When finished with the selection, click "Install":

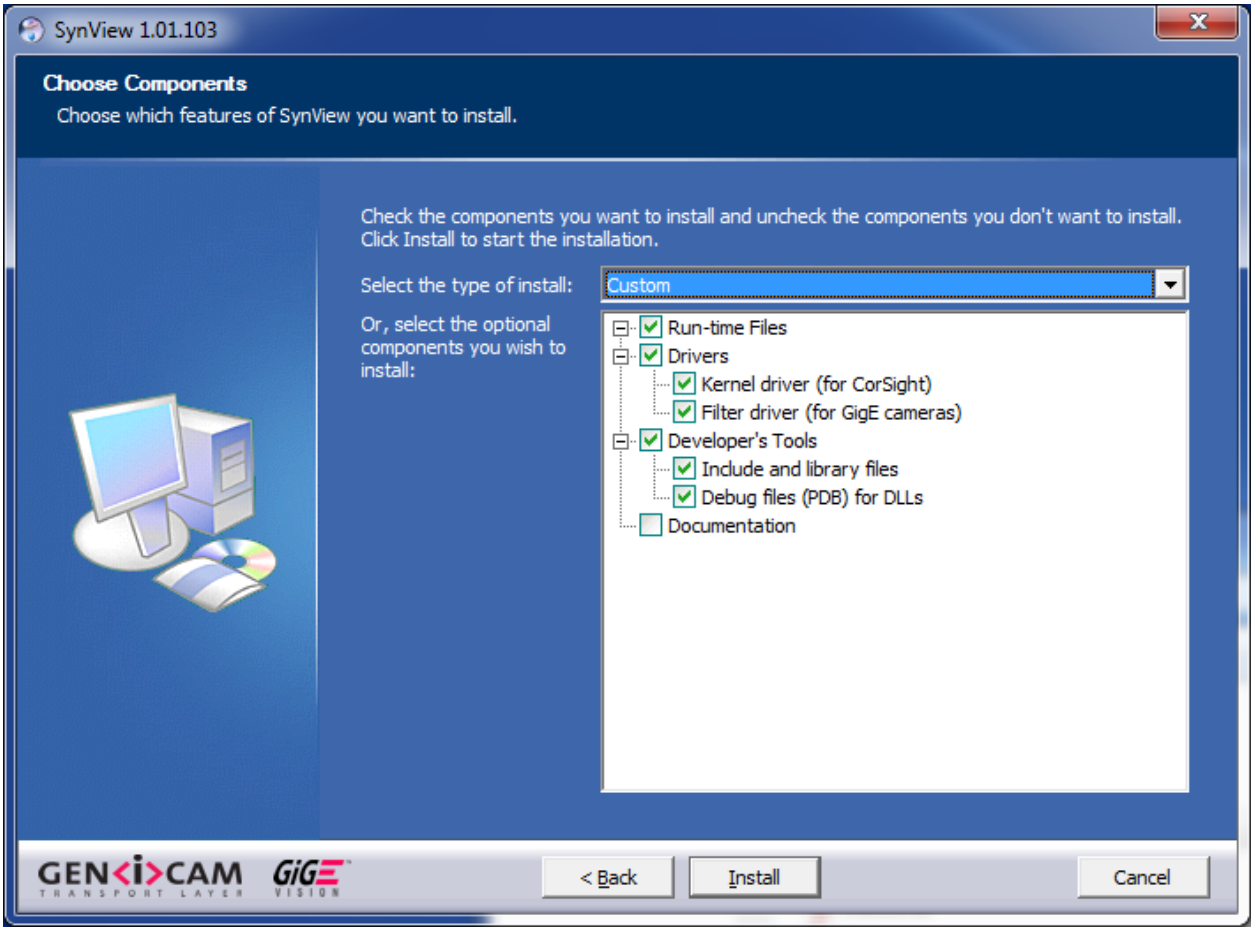
SynView 1.01.103
Choose Components
Choose which features of SynView you want to install.
Check the components you want to install and uncheck the components you don't want to install. Click Install to start the installation.
Select the type of install:
Custom
Or, select the optional components you wish to install:
Run-time Files
Drivers
Kernel driver (for CorSight)
Filter driver (for GigE cameras)
Developer's Tools
Include and library files
Debug files (PDB) for DLLs
Documentation
GEN<i>CAM
GiGE VISION
< Back
Install
Cancel

Figure 46 SynView installation: selecting components

After starting the installation, the selected components will be installed to the user´s computer. The installer will inform about the progress. Note: the installation includes Microsoft runtime libraries (Microsoft Visual C++ 2005 Redistributable) which sometimes take longer to be installed.

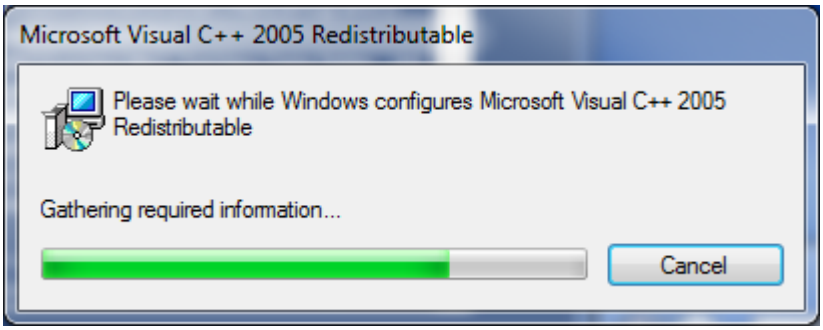
Microsoft Visual C++ 2005 Redistributable
Please wait while Windows configures Microsoft Visual C++ 2005 Redistributable
Gathering required information...
Cancel

Figure 47 SynView Installation Progress

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

After that the device driver for CORSIGHT cameras as well as a network filter driver for GigE Vision based cameras (GigEpro/GimaGO easy) will be installed. The filter driver installation might display a dialog that the driver has not passed the Windows Logo tests. This will occur several times.

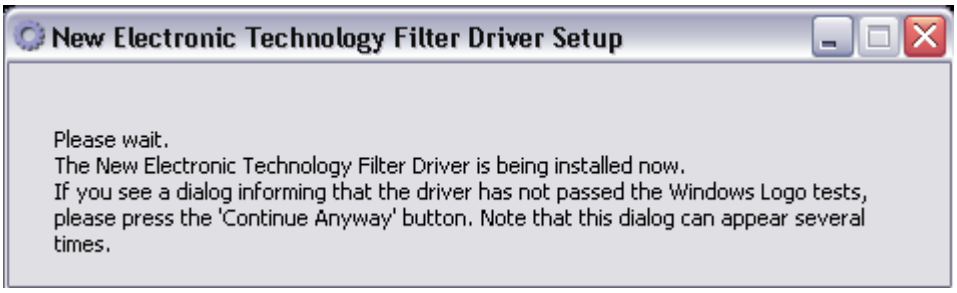
New Electronic Technology Filter Driver Setup
Please wait.
The New Electronic Technology Filter Driver is being installed now.
If you see a dialog informing that the driver has not passed the Windows Logo tests, please press the 'Continue Anyway' button. Note that this dialog can appear several times.

Figure 48 SynView installation: Filter Driver Message

After completion, the installer displays the final dialog. We recommend to keep the default option (Reboot now) and click "Finish". After rebooting, SynView is ready to use.

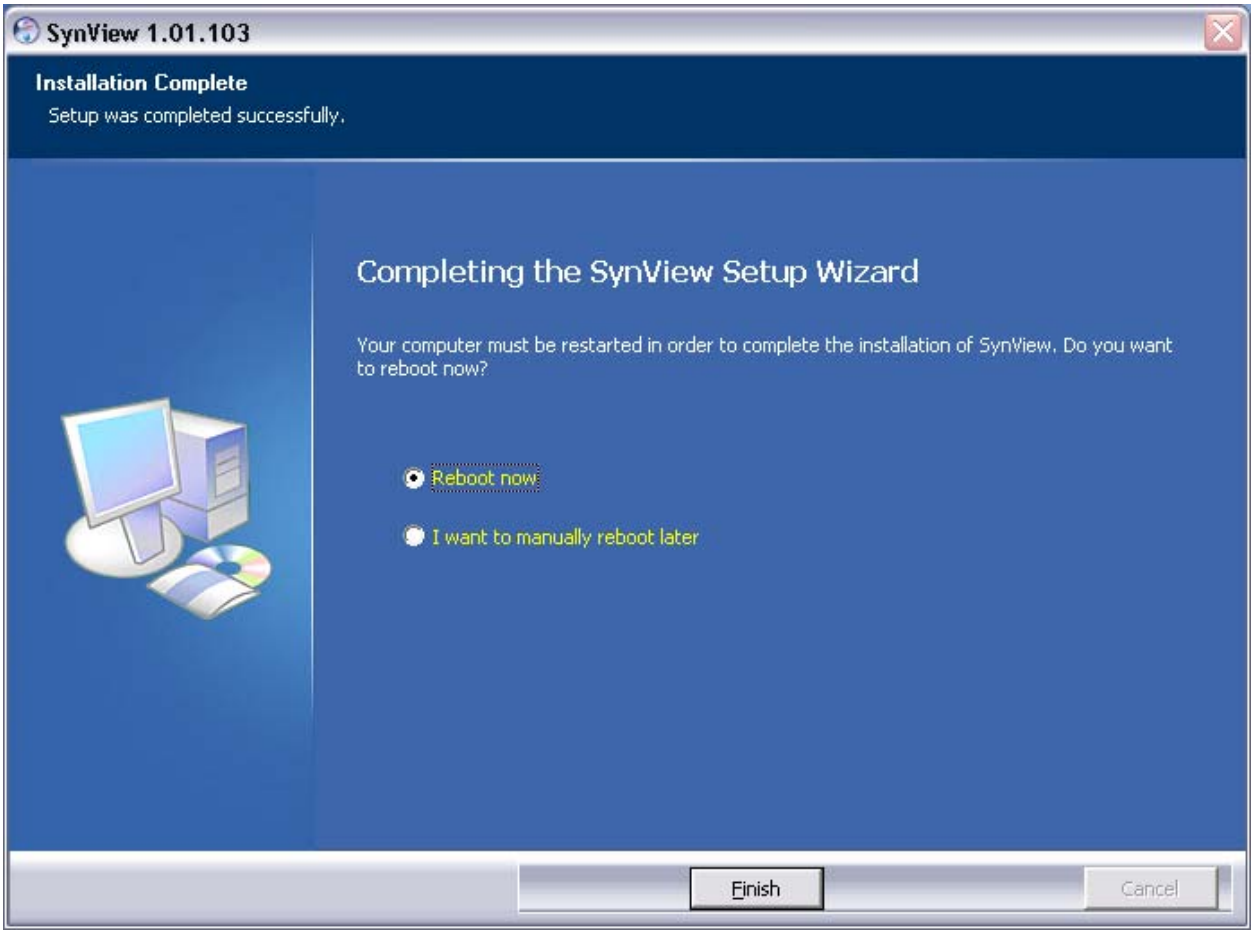
SynView 1.01.103
Installation Complete
Setup was completed successfully.
Completing the SynView Setup Wizard
Your computer must be restarted in order to complete the installation of SynView. Do you want to reboot now?
Reboot now
I want to manually reboot later
Finish
Cancel

Figure 49 SynView installation: finishing installation

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Layout

As mentioned above, the SynView files are installed to two destinations, the main directory and the application data directory. For the older Windows versions (Windows XP), these two are merged and the application data directory is actually equivalent to the bin subdirectory of the main installation destination.

Main installation directory

The main installation directory contains the following subdirectories:

- backup — backup of user modified files (such as the configuration files) that might be overwritten when upgrading to newer SynView version
- bin — all executable (*.exe) and library (*.dll files belonging to SynView
- data — tool-specific data, eg. templates used by the SynView Source Code Generator
- doc — documentation files
- drivers — drivers (CORSIGHT device driver, network filter driver)
- include — header files for SynView API development
- lib — library (*.lib) files for SynView API development
- samples — additional sample code (most of the samples can be, however, generated interactively using the SynView Source Code Generator)

Application data directory

The application data directory contains following main components:

- sv.synview.ini — SynView configurations file.
- sv.synview.log — SynView log file.
- XML — contains static XML files copied during installation. None of the files in this directory should be removed unless being explicitly advised by our support team.
- XMLCache — contains GenICam XML files downloaded from cameras.
- Cache — preprocessed versions of the GenICam XML files for performance improvement. These can be safely removed SynView will re-generate them upon next use.
- Debug — the .pdb files with debugging information for the SynView libraries. These might be useful for troubleshooting when contacting our support team.

Network filter driver under Windows

The SynView setup program can install the network filter driver automatically, if desired. The decision can be made on the setup program's dialog window, where installation components are selected. If not installed automatically, it is still possible to install the filter driver manually later, as described below. Before installing it, the user might want to learn more information about the filter driver. In older SynView versions the setup did not install the filter driver automatically and the user was required to install it manually.

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Manual filter driver installation

The instructions below describe how to install the network filter driver manually, if not enabled during installation of the SynView itself. Note that the instructions below assume that SynView is already successfully installed in the system.

Open the Network Connections applet in the Control Panel.

Windows 7

— menu Start →Control Panel →Network and sharing center →Manage Network Connection

Windows Vista

— menu Start →Control Panel →Network and internet →Network and sharing center →Manage Network Connection

Windows XP

— menu Start →Settings →Control Panel →Network Connections

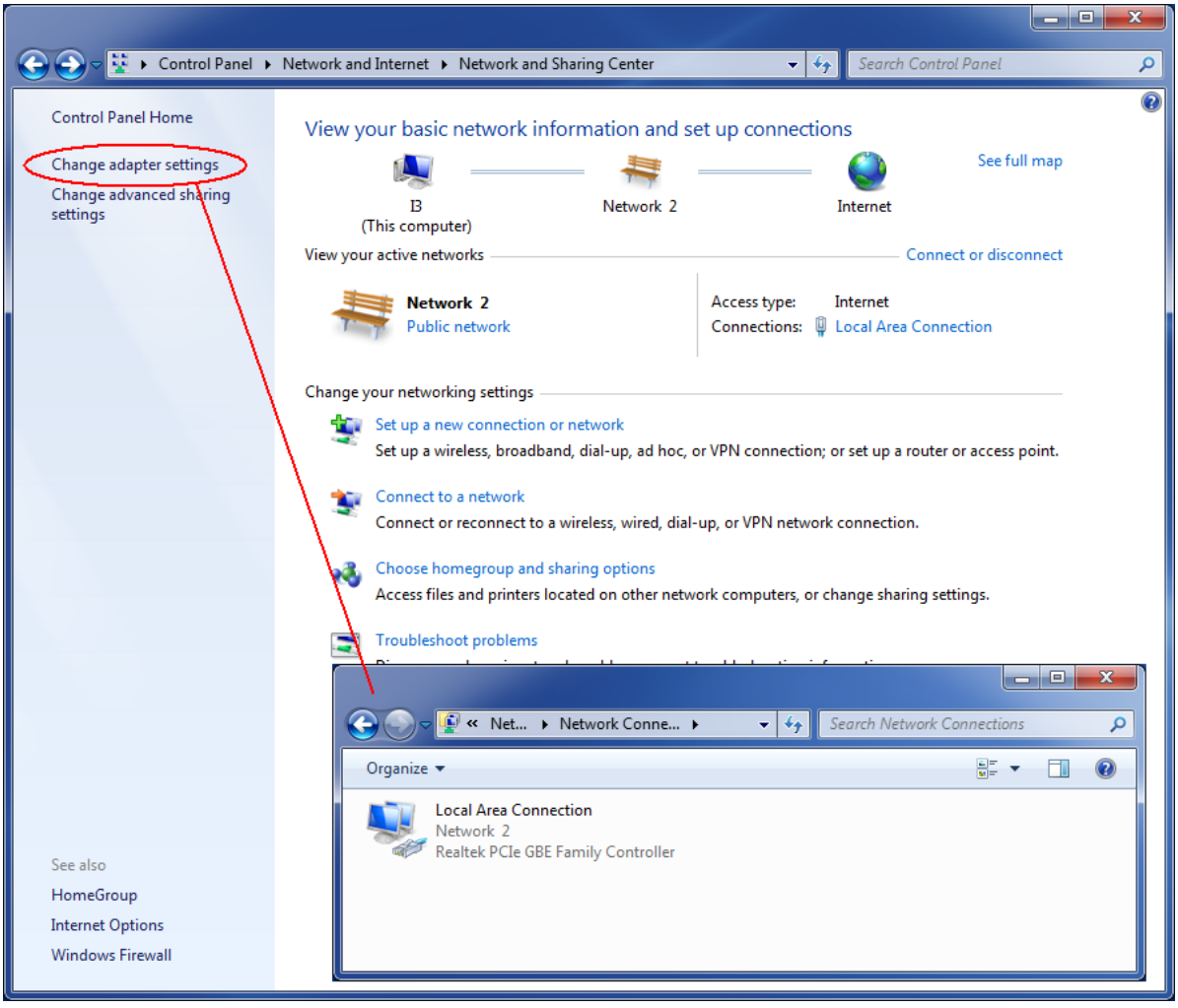
Control Panel ▸ Network and Internet ▸ Network and Sharing Center
Search Control Panel
Control Panel Home
Change adapter settings
Change advanced sharing settings
View your basic network information and set up connections
See full map
(This computer)
Network 2
Internet
View your active networks
Connect or disconnect
Network 2
Public network
Access type: Internet
Connections: Local Area Connection
Change your networking settings
Set up a new connection or network
Set up a wireless, broadband, dial-up, ad hoc, or VPN connection; or set up a router or access point.
Connect to a network
Connect or reconnect to a wireless, wired, dial-up, or VPN network connection.
Choose homegroup and sharing options
Access files and printers located on other network computers, or change sharing settings.
Troubleshoot problems
« Net... ▸ Network Conne... ▸
Search Network Connections
Organize
Local Area Connection
Network 2
Realtek PCIe GBE Family Controller
See also
HomeGroup
Internet Options
Windows Firewall

Figure 50 Windows 7, Installing the network filter driver, step 1

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Click with the right mouse button on the network connection, which is used to connect the camera(s), select "Properties" from the context menu.

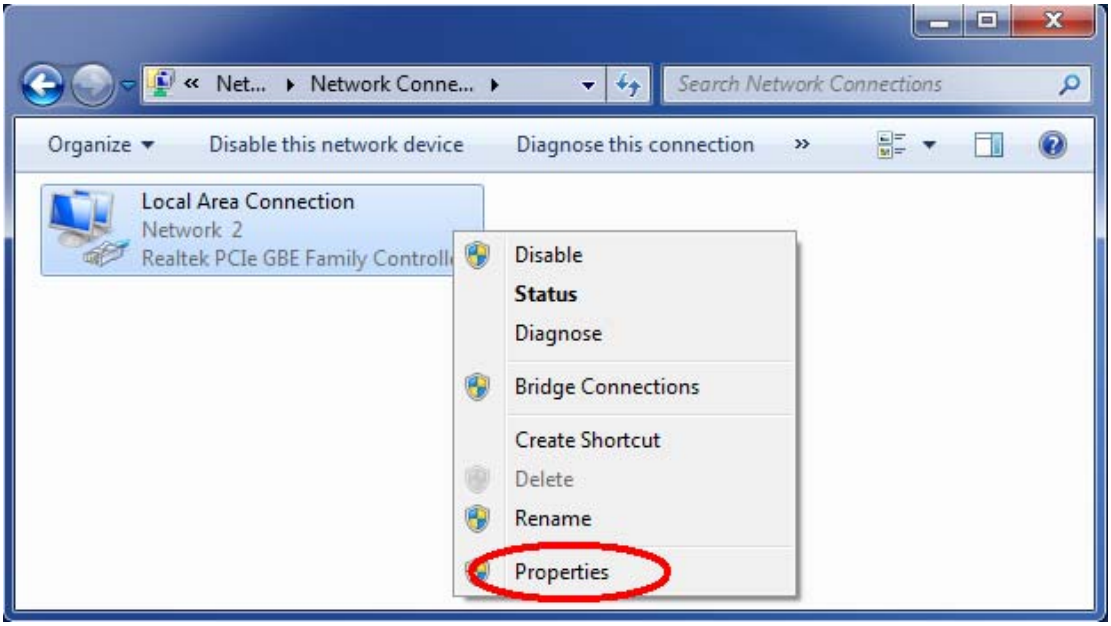

Figure 51 Windows 7, Installing the network filter driver, step 2

In the "Properties" dialog box select "Install" button to start the installation.

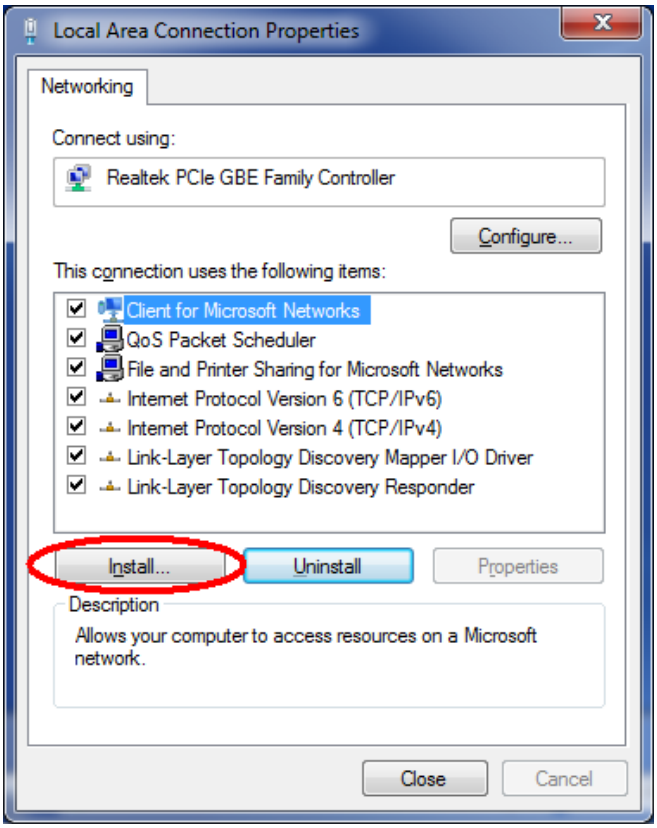

Figure 52 Windows 7, Installing the network filter driver, step 3

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

The "Select Network Component Type" dialog box appears. Select "Service" as the new network component type and click "Add".

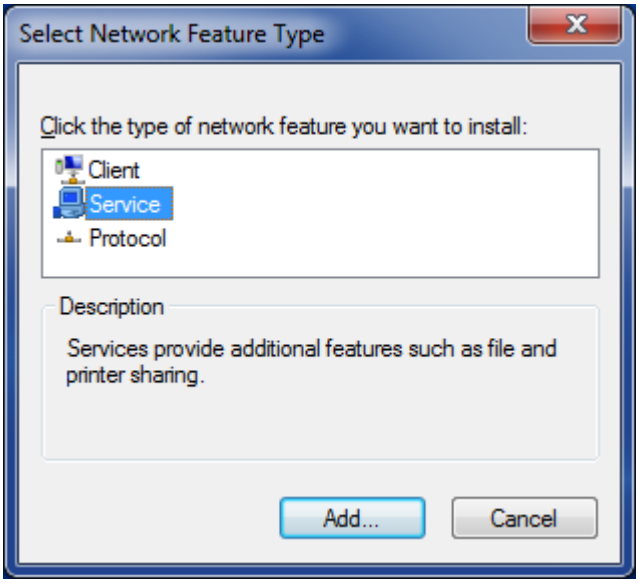

Figure 53 Windows 7, Installing the network filter driver, step 4

In the "Select Network Service" dialog box ignore the options possibly offered by the system and click “Have Disk...” to specify the driver location.

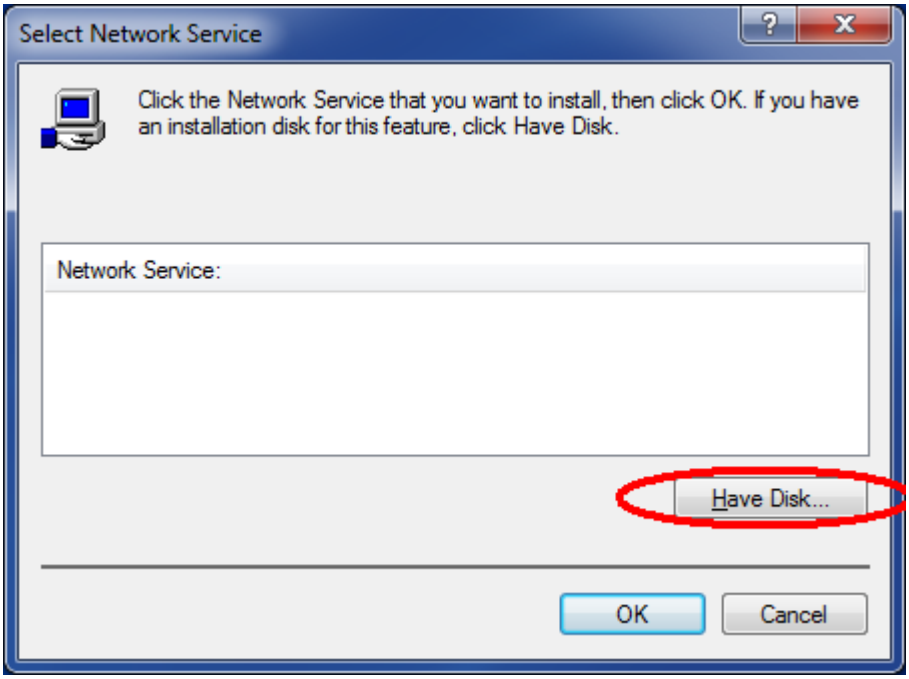
Select Network Service
Click the Network Service that you want to install, then click OK. If you have an installation disk for this feature, click Have Disk.
Network Service:
Have Disk...
OK
Cancel

Figure 54 Windows 7, Installing network filter driver, step 5

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In the next dialog browse to the location, where the filter driver files are stored. The directory is SYNVIEWHOME\drivers\Windows32 , where SYNVIEWHOME is the SynView installation directory C:\Program Files\SynView by default. When located, click "Next".

For 64-bit Windows the driver files are located in SYNVIEWHOME\drivers\Windows64.
The driver consists of 4 files that should in any case be available to the system in the same directory (that need to be located in the dialog as described above).
The files are: LvGevDrv.sys (the driver executable itself), the LvGevDrv.inf (the file used to install/uninstall the driver), the LvGevDrv_m.inf (auxiliary) and the LvDrv.cat with a digital signature.
Windows should successfully find the proper driver and offer it for installation as “New Electronic Technology SynView Filter Driver”. Select that option and click "OK". Depending on SynView and Windows versions used one or more dialogs might appear to inform that the driver is not tested for Windows compatibility. In such case, just click through them, allowing to finish the installation successfully. When finished the filter driver will be successfully installed and ready to use. It is then listed in the Local Area Connection properties dialog box.

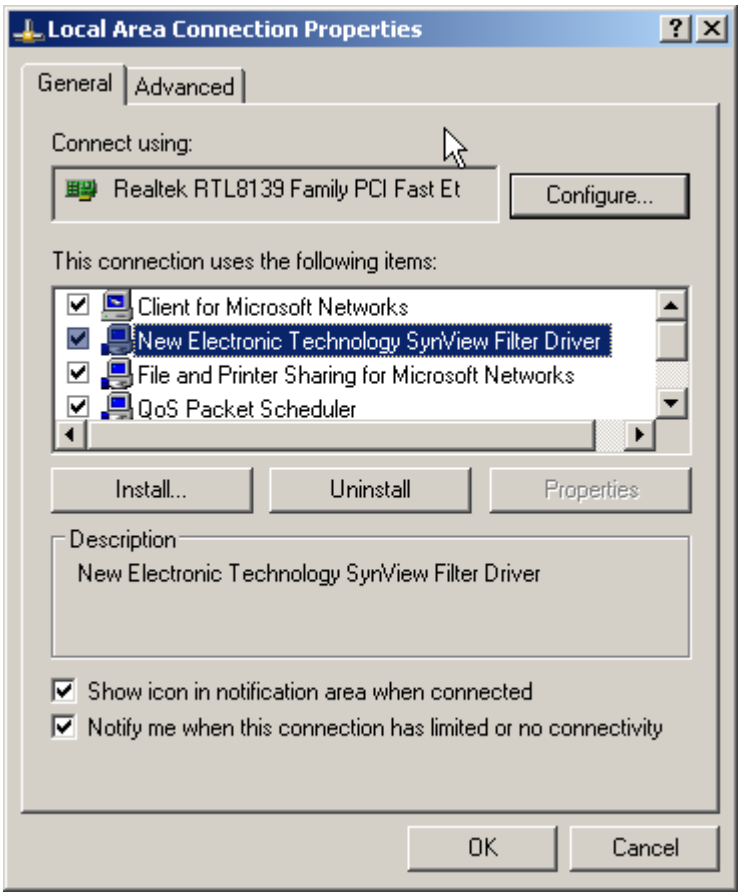

Figure 55 Windows XP: Filter Driver listed as network service

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Installation in Linux

This section discusses SynView package installation under Linux with notes specific for the most popular distributions and overview of system requirements.

Installation package types

In Linux there is no single standard way for software installation. The SynView Linux package is therefore distributed in multiple forms to suit all systems.

RPM format

- Used on most commercial distributions and their community variants, including Fedora/Red Hat, OpenSUSE/SUSE.
- The package file name is synview-x.yy.zzz.rpm, where x.yy.zzz stands for SynView version.
- To install, execute rpm -i synview-x.yy.zzz.rpm with superuser privileges.
- To uninstall, execute rpm -e SynView with superuser privileges.

DEB format

- Used on Debian based distributions, including Debian, Ubuntu (and variants) or Mint.
- The package file name is synview-x.yy.zzz.deb, where x.yy.zzz stands for SynView version.
- To install, execute dpkg -i synview-x.yy.zzz.deb with superuser privileges.
- To uninstall, execute dpkg -r SynView with superuser privileges.

Compressed archive (TARGZ)

- The .tar.gz archive is intended for systems, where the rpm/deb formats cannot be used or when a customized installation is required for serious reasons. Details are provided in a separate section "Custom installation in Linux" p.64.

System requirements

Following list enumerates the most important requirements for installing and using SynView. Note that the list might not be complete and is subject to change between SynView versions.

- Kernel version: kernels of the 2.6 line. The oldest tested version to date is 2.6.18, SynView is kept aligned with all the newest kernel version.
- Compiler: g++/gcc 4.1 and newer, libstdc++ v. 6 (GLIBCXX 3.4.5), pthreads implementation NPTL.

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When installing on CORSIGHT, the kernel driver needs to get compiled and configured, therefore the basic infrastructure for kernel development needs to be available, in particular the basic compiling tools (gcc and make) and kernel headers. The name of the package containing the kernel headers might differ among individual distributions (eg. linux-headers, kernel-devel or similar). Additional system requirements might apply for CORSIGHT systems, if in doubt, contact us to get full list of distributions supported by the CORSIGHT cameras.

- LSB compatibility and xdg-utils are advantage, but they come by default on most of the usual distributions.
- To compile samples generated by the SynView Source Code Generator, one needs basic development tools (make, g++) plus packages for Xlib/Xt development.

Standard installation layout

The SynView installation follows the File system Hierarchy Standard. Its files are distributed in several directories.

Main installation directory

The main installation directory is /opt/synview.

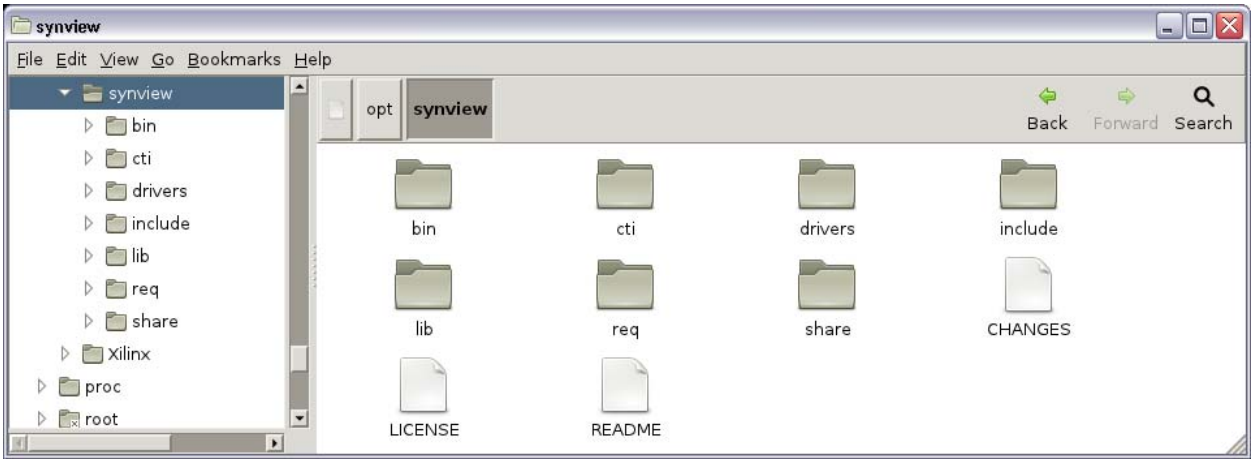

Figure 56 Linux installation layout, main directory

The main installation directory contains all the runtime binaries and development files. It is organized in following subdirectories:

- bin — tools and test/demo programs, in particular SynView Explorer (sv.explorer) and SynView Settings (sv.settings)
- lib — all SynView API libraries, i.e. a directory where the linker should be pointed at; on 64-bit systems the lib directory contains the 32-bit versions, while the 64-bit ones reside in lib64
- cti — contains the SynView GenTL Producer library; on 64-bit systems the cti directory contains the 32-bit versions, while the 64-bit ones reside in cti64

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- include — SynView API header files
- share — static data files used by SynView
- share/xml — static XML files copied during installation
- req — foreign requisite components used by SynView, in particular the GenICam runtime
- drivers — scripts and sources necessary to build and install SynView device drivers (used only on CORSIGHT systems)

Configuration files

The configuration files are stored in /etc/opt/synview.

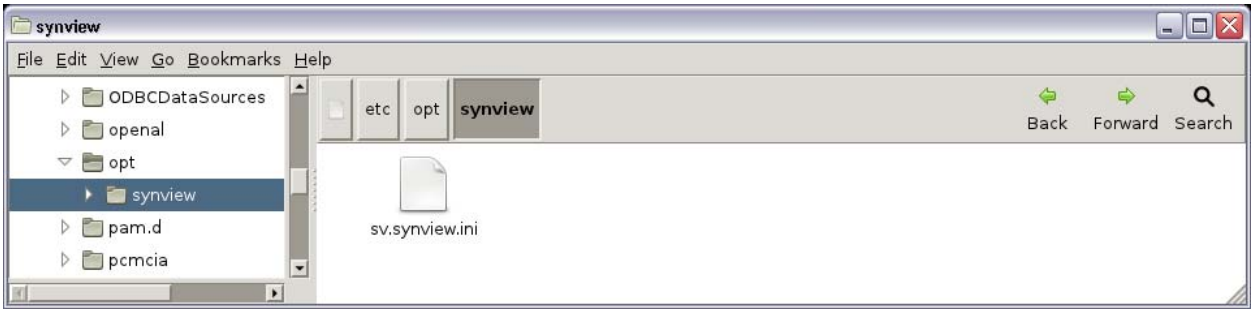

Figure 57 Linux installation layout, configuration file

The directory contains in particular the main SynView configuration file, sv.synview.ini. The file should be edited with superuser privileges. See Section "SynView Settings utility and the configuration file" p.67 for details.

Application data

The various application data, such as logs and cache go to /var/opt/synview.

Figure 58 Linux installation layout, application data

The data are stored in several subdirectories, in particular:

- log — default destination for SynView log files, in particular the sv.synview.log that are useful for any troubleshooting ("Troubleshooting & Support p.74).
- XMLCache — contains GenICam XML files downloaded from cameras.

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- GCCache — preprocessed versions of the GenICam XML files for performance improvement. These can be safely removed. SynView will re-generate them upon next use.

User specific files

Possible user specific files (such as demos'/tools' configuration) are stored in ~/.synview.

Figure 5.18. Linux installation layout, user specific data

This directory is used solely to store user specific settings or preferences for SynView tools, such as SynView Explorer or SynView Settings. It will not be needed for usual operation on a runtime system.

Other actions performed by the installer

Besides copying the files and adjusting user rights, the installer performs some additional actions, including:

- When installing on a CORSIGHT system (detected automatically), the necessary device driver is built and installed.
- For convenience, the directory /opt/synview/bin is added to PATH environment variable, so that the tools are directly accessible from the shell. This is performed by adding an entry to /etc/profile.d — on systems using other mechanism, the system administrator might need to adjust the path manually.
- Directory /opt/synview/cti is added to the GENICAM_GENTL32_PATH environment variable (and analogically the 64-bit variant), so that the SynView GenTL Producer can be located by 3rd party GenTL consumers. This is performed by adding an entry to /etc/profile.d — on systems using other mechanism, the system administrator might need to adjust the path manually.
- For convenience, the directory /opt/synview/lib (and its 64-bit variant) is added to the search path of the dynamic linker. This is performed by adding an entry to ld.so.conf.d — on systems using other mechanism, the system administrator might need to adjust the path manually.

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Notes for the most common distributions

The SynView package is tested with the most popular distributions. Brief notes for those distributions are listed below. Note that this list by no means suggests that other distributions are not supported, SynView should work on any system fulfilling the basic requirements ("System requirements" p.59). Also the versions listed for each distribution are just a hint, showing which was the original version used for tests. Each newer version of given distribution should work well and older versions would work if fulfilling the mentioned system requirements.
For each distribution, the tests were done with the most basic "default" setup including X, but without any special additions.
The notes below are related only to SynView itself, assuming the Linux operating system was properly installed and configured. Special requirements related to operating system installation might apply on CORSIGHT systems. To install SynView on CORSIGHT, kernel development infrastructure (gcc, make, kernel headers) must be installed to successfully build and configure the device driver.

Ubuntu
Originally tested version: 10.04 LTS (Lucid Lynx)
Packaging type: deb format
Works out of the box

Debian
Originally tested version: 6.0 (Squeeze)
Packaging type: deb format
Works out of the box

OpenSUSE (community version of SUSE Linux Enterprise)
Originally tested version: 11.2
Packaging type: rpm format
Default installation switches on a paranoid firewall, which has to be configured (or switched off) if working with GigE Vision cameras (GigEpro/GimaGO easy)

Fedora (community version of Red Hat Enterprise Linux)
Originally tested version: 14 (Laughlin)
Packaging type: rpm format
Default installation switches on a paranoid firewall, which has to be configured (or switched off) if working with GigE Vision cameras (GigEpro/GimaGO easy)

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Custom installation

Custom installation in Linux

In some situations, the official SynView installers (RPM or DEB) cannot be used, either because given system does not properly support either of them or when installing to other than default locations is required for serious reasons. To cover those situations, the SynView package can be on request delivered in the .tar.gz format. This allows full flexibility during the software installation; however, certain rules need to be followed to make the installation fully functional. Note that the installation details are subject to change — in case of doubts or experiencing problems with the installation, contact our support team. It is highly recommended to use the standard installers wherever possible.
Before planning the installation, please note the section describing the regular installation, including the system requirements and the default installation layout: Section "Installation in Linux" p.59.

Extracting the archive

The package file name is synview-x.yy.zzz.tar.gz, where x.yy.zzz stands for SynView version. As a first step, the files from the archive should be extracted to the system:

- The opt directory should be extracted to /opt. Alternatively it can be extracted to a custom location, provided that the environment is properly adjusted, see below.
- The etc directory should be extracted to /etc. Alternatively, it can be extracted to a custom location, provided that the environment is properly adjusted, see below.
- The var directory (if present in the archive) should be extracted to /var. Alternatively, it can be extracted to a custom location, provided that the environment is properly adjusted, see below. If the directory is not present in the archive, we recommend creating it in the target system, including (empty) subdirectories log, XMLCache and GCCache.

Adjusting the environment

The path to the SynView GenTL Producer needs to be adjusted according to the GenTL standard requirements:

- On 32-bit installations, the variable GENICAM_GENTL32_PATH must point to the cti subdirectory of the main SynView installation.
- On 64-bit installations, the variable GENICAM_GENTL64_PATH must point to the cti64 subdirectory of the main SynView installation.

On systems supporting the /etc/profile.d mechanism, this will be handled automatically by the file etc/profile.d/synview.sh in the .tar.gz archive. The file, however, assumes default installation locations — in case of custom installation, its contents need to be adjusted accordingly.

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The PATH variable could be adjusted to include the bin subdirectory of the main SynView installation directory, so that the individual SynView applications can be loaded from the console without specifying the full path.

Dynamic linking

If desired, the directory with the SynView shared libraries should be added to the search path of the dynamic linker. The shared libraries are located in lib or lib64 (depending on architecture) subdirectory of the main SynView installation.
On systems supporting the /etc/ld.so.conf.d mechanism, this will be handled automatically by the file etc/ld.so.conf.d/synview.conf in the .tar.gz archive. The file, however, assumes default installation locations — in case of custom installation, its contents need to be adjusted accordingly. To apply the configuration, the ldconfig command will have to be executed.
The dependencies of the individual SynView libraries and executables should be resolved automatically — the corresponding links are stored in given files using the DT_RPATH/DT_RUNPATH ELF tags. The tags contain both the absolute path (pointing to the default installation locations) and the relative path (using the "$ORIGIN" convention). This means that dependencies should be automatically resolved even when installing to a custom location.
Note that in certain situations (such as when using suid binaries), the $ORIGIN based path might be ignored by the dynamic linker. In such situation, the runpaths need to be adjusted to match the installation, alternatively another equivalent mechanism (such as LD_LIBRARY_PATH) of choice can be used.

Access rights

The execution rights for all the executables should be adjusted according to the user´s system policy. The default installers enable the execution rights for all users. The setuid bit for the sv.fwupgrade can be added so that the tool is allowed to automatically shutdown the CORSIGHT system after firmware update
The /var/opt/synview directory (or its equivalent specified through LVS_VAR environment variable) and its subdirectories must have write access for all users.
All other installed files should have at least read access for all users enabled.

Kernel drivers

Depending on the hardware in use, the user might need to install, build and configure the kernel driver(s) delivered with SynView. This applies in particular to the CORSIGHT device driver (not needed when using only GigEpro cameras), but in future SynView versions other drivers might be available.
The driver(s) are available in the driver subdirectory of the main SynView installation. There's one subdirectory per driver. Each driver comes with a control script (typically named control_driver). This script is used by the default installers to build, install and configure the driver. The script is easy to follow and commented, so it should be easy for the system administrator to understand its purpose and eventually adapt the script to match the desired target system. Note that the script is subject to change any time between SynView versions without prior notice.

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Optional files

Some of the files distributed with the SynView package might not be necessary for the basic runtime operation.

- The tools installed in the bin subdirectory are very useful in the development phase, but might not be necessary in the target runtime installation. In such case they can be freely omitted without any harm.
- The 3rd party prerequisite libraries, which are not typically installed on every system, or might be present in different version, are distributed together with SynView in the req subdirectory. This covers especially GenApi, Qt, Xerces/Xalan. On embedded, space-sensitive installations, where the system already contains one or more of these components, the “original” copies can be used instead of those delivered in the SynView package. It is, however, fully responsibility of the system administrator to determine and use the proper versions of these prerequisites for every given SynView version and configure the dynamic linking properly. This is done at the user´s own risk.
- The support files for the SynView Source Code Generator (in share/srcgen) can be omitted if SynView Source Code Generator functionality is not needed.
- The contents of the driver’s directory might or might not be needed, depending on the hardware in use. It is fully responsibility of the system administrator to install and configure all the required drivers.
- The configuration files from the etc tree can be omitted if the user compensates their purpose by other means (most of them were discussed above). The only exception is the sv.synview.ini file, which must always be present.

De-installation/upgrade

When uninstalling or upgrading the SynView package, all relevant steps corresponding with the custom installation scenario should be performed to keep the system consistent.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

Configuration

SynView Settings utility and configuration file

The SynView configuration options are concentrated in a single file, sv.synview.ini. On Windows systems the file is located in the “application data” part of the installation. On Linux systems it's stored by default in /etc/opt/synview.
The file can be edited directly — every single option is well documented directly in the file, including its possible values. Note that on Linux superuser privileges are required to edit the file.
Instead of editing the file directly, however, the recommended alternative is to edit the file through a helper utility, SynView Settings (Windows: menu Start →Programs→SynView→Tools→SynView Settings; Linux: /opt/synview/bin/sv.settings as superuser). The tool provides a comfortable way to edit the sv.synview.ini file.

Please note that all data and illustrations are subject to error, change and omissions without notice.

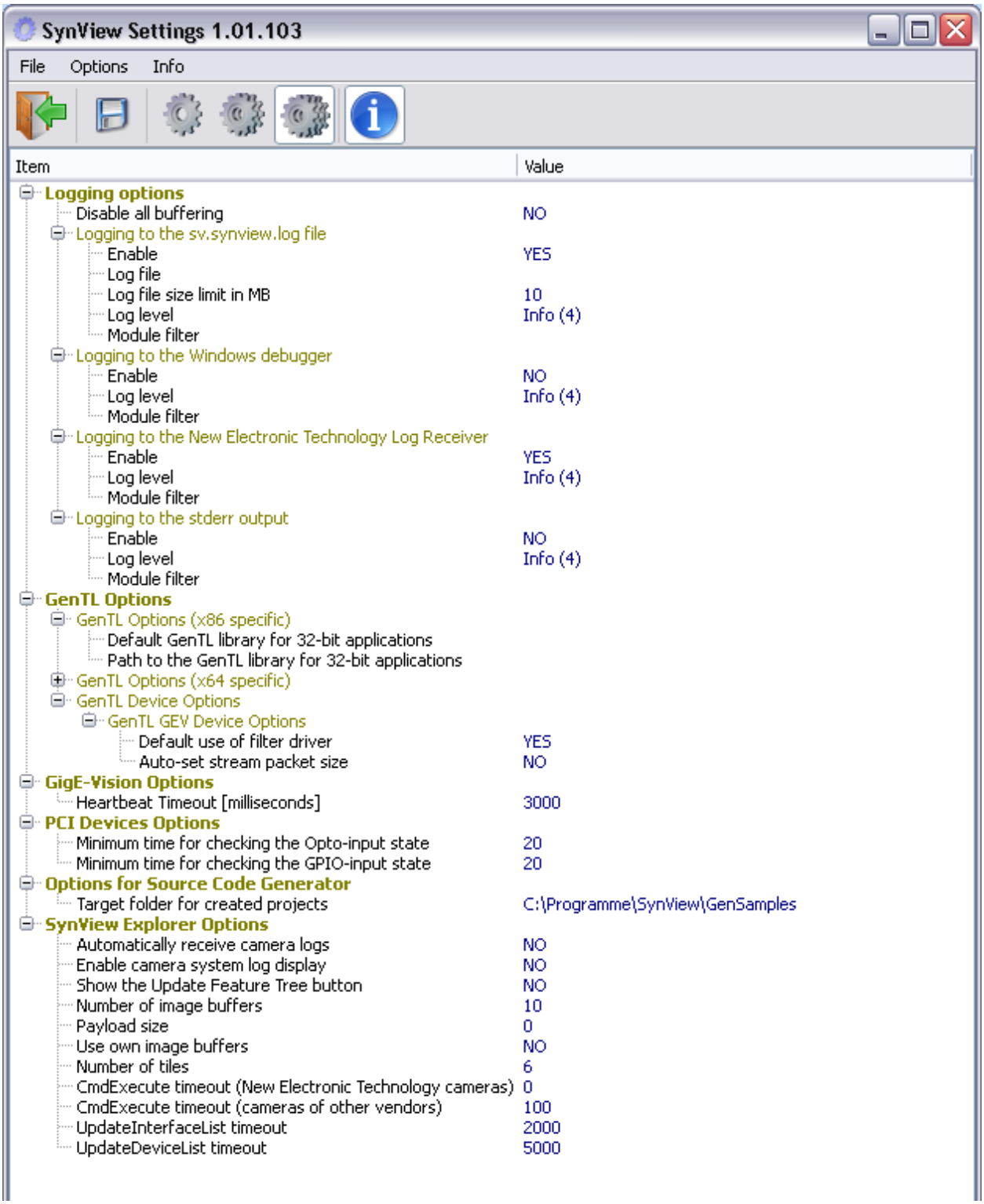

Figure 59 SynView Settings utility

The tool's interface can be controlled through a handful of menu options (or corresponding buttons). Optionally: show/hide the info pane with info about "The selected configuration" option. Users can

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switch between three configuration levels (beginner, expert, guru) — the higher level, the more detailed options are shown. Finally, changes can be stored.
The set of options itself is ever evolving, so the SynView Settings tool itself (or the sv.synview.ini file) is the most complete documentation. The options include detailed logging configuration (see also Troubleshooting & Support p.74), system installation related info and configuration of individual SynView subsystems.

Selected configuration options

The documentation for all the SynView configuration options is provided directly in the SynView Settings utility and the configuration file. A few selected important options as follows:

Logging options

The SynView log is an important tool for any support and troubleshooting. For regular operation, the log might be kept at low level (default is level Info (4)) or even switched off to optimize the performance. However, during application development or when debugging a problem, we recommend to switch the Log level configuration option to Trace (6). All log files sent to our support team should be created with level Trace (6).
The logging infrastructure is optimized for high performance. For example, the logging to file is buffered to minimize the disk access overhead. This can have a drawback, however, that in case of an application crash, the last part of the log might be missing in the file. When troubleshooting application crashes, we recommend switching on the option Disable all buffering.

Heartbeat timeout

Heartbeat timeout is an important parameter, related to GigE Vision cameras only (GigEpro/GimaGO easy). This timeout, in milliseconds, defines how frequently the application software has to send the “heartbeat” messages to the camera, indicating that it is still working and connected to the application. When the camera does not receive the message within the specified timeout period, it assumes the application has failed and disconnects itself. The default value used in SynView is 3 s. At most times, the heartbeat handling is fully transparent to the user. However, during debugging, when a developer stops the application at a breakpoint for single stepping, the SynView heartbeat handling thread would also stop, fail to deliver the heartbeat messages and the camera would disconnect. To prevent that, we recommend increasing the heartbeat timeout parameter to a higher value. Please keep in mind that with a high heartbeat value the camera will be available later for reconnection in case of an unexpected disconnect from the application side. The parameter is configurable through camera features at runtime. Its default value can be adjusted through the SynView Settings utility.

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Vision Standards

The following paragraphs provide brief information about the most important machine vision standards built into SynView and the GigEpro/GimaGO easy and CORSIGHT camera families.

GenICam

The main idea of the GenICam standard, published first in 2006 under EMVA (European Machine Vision Association), is to provide a unified application programming interface (API) to the users of machine vision cameras. It enables an easy integration of individual components, such as cameras, image processing libraries, drivers or frame grabbers.

GENICAM

GenICam is independent on the transport layer technology. The GigE Vision standard uses GenICam to access camera configuration. GenICam is also implemented by manufacturers of cameras based on "older" interface technologies (Camera Link, USB, IIDC DCAM) and efforts are made to integrate GenICam back into these standards. More importantly, newly developed machine vision standards are expected to build upon GenICam and smart camera platforms, such as NET CORSIGHT also heavily rely on GenICam based interoperability. GenICam is thus supported by virtually all important manufacturers of machine vision components. GenICam consists of three main modules, GenApi, GenTL, and SFNC.

GenApi

GenApi (GenICam Application Programming Interface) is a basic building block of GenICam. It allows describing complete camera functionality using an XML file with precisely defined syntax. Individual camera features are described by their name, type (integer, float, boolean, command, string, etc.), address, length and other parameters of the register controlling the feature, as well as other details including complex description of logical and mathematical relationships between individual features. The XML file is usually stored directly on the camera, which further simplifies the automatic configuration process. The standard clearly defines the way, how the XML configuration file should be interpreted, so that the host-side implementation (application itself) and camera can cooperate. GenICam also provides quality reference implementation in form of a set of C++ libraries with license similar to BSD. All GenICam software products known to the author are using the reference implementation. GenApi is fully independent on the transport layer, which only has to supply two functions for reading and writing the camera registers by means of its corresponding protocol (GVCP in case of GigE Vision). The GenApi principle is revolutionary among other aspects in the degree of flexibility available for the camera description. GenApi allows exact camera description, while leaving full freedom for layout and implementation of individual registers, as well as for defining custom features, not specified by the standard.

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GenTL

GenTL (Transport Layer) is the newest addition to GenICam. It defines interface for acquisition of image sequences (or additional non-image data) independently on the transport layer technology and platform (operating system, programming language, etc.).

GENICAM
TRANSPORT LAYER

GenTL allows to enumerate and identify the devices (cameras) connected to the system, control access to them from individual applications ("GenTL Consumers"), configure them (by means of GenApi), configure the pool of buffers used for the acquired data and control the acquisition itself, including synchronization, buffer locking, control of the input and output buffer queues, reading additional data bound to individual images, etc.
The basic camera functionality is available through programming interface compatible with the ISO norm for the C programming language. More advanced GenTL features can be configured by means of a GenApi interface, similarly as the camera itself. In such case the GenTL Producer implements a virtual register space, described by a similar XML file, which is used also for description of the cameras.
Thanks to GenTL, the applications can use cameras across the transport layer technologies, without knowing any low-level details about each respective technology.

SFNC

SFNC (Standard Features Naming Convention) is kind of superstructure on top of GenApi. It defines a convention for naming features typical for machine vision cameras. SFNC defines a universal camera model, which might be implemented by most of the cameras on the market. Generic applications and libraries can, thanks to this standard model, automatically comprehend virtually any newly connected camera and configure it according it needs, without "manual" intervention from the programmer or user.
SFNCC thus practically takes the full freedom of GenApi and ties it again to a clearly defined model, so the features listed in the XML configuration file can be automatically (ie. without study of the documentation) bound to a particular meanings. Nevertheless, the camera implements this model only to the level possible and practical for its design. The designer has still full freedom for adding his own extensions and features not defined by the standard.
The SFNC model is very comprehensive, allowing defining most of the camera functionality, perhaps just with exception of very specific features.

GigE Vision

GigE Vision is relatively young but already very mature and widely adopted standard published in 2006 under AIA (Advanced Imaging Association). It defines interface (set of communication protocols) for industrial cameras using Ethernet as its transport media. The goal of the standard was to reach high

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degree of interoperability between individual manufacturers. Despite of the name, suggesting that it was originally designed for gigabit Ethernet, the standard itself does not define any particular transport media and enables thus transition to faster media (10G Ethernet) in future.
Main advantages of GigE Vision against competing technologies are:

- Gigabit Ethernet infrastructure is readily available in most current systems and is well known.
- Sufficient bandwidth for most of current camera designs.
- Cable length up to 100 meters without regeneration, with switches the length is practically unlimited.
- Number of cameras available in the system is practically unlimited.
- Wide spectrum of network topologies, support for multicasting etc. enable to build specific systems with eg. multiple cameras simultaneously available (and simultaneously acquiring) to multiple host computers.
- Plug&play, support of GenICam standard.
- Cost savings thanks to utilization of cheap, off-the-shelf equipment such as network cards (instead of specialized frame grabbers), standard network cables, etc. Total costs can compete even with analog systems.

GigE Vision is actually set of protocols built on top of UDP/IP. UDP was selected to achieve maximum possible performance. Error checking and repairing mechanisms are available directly by means of the GigE Vision protocols, if it is required by the application.
Main components of the standard are Device Discovery, GVCP, GVSP, Bootstrap registers:

Device discovery

Device discovery is the mechanism allowing discovery and identification of GigE Vision compatible cameras available in the system. The application issues (broadcast) a request for identification of the cameras. Individual cameras must react to this request by sending their card, containing for example the camera's IP address, name of the camera manufacturer and model name, as well as other basic information.
The application can change the IP configuration of the camera (e.g. to bring it to its own subnet) and request exclusive rights to access the camera.

GVCP

Once the connection is established, the application communicates with the camera using GVCP (GigE Vision Control Protocol). Its task is to control all the communication with the camera, especially read and write all the camera's control registers and allow thus the actual image acquisition.

GVSP

As soon as the camera is configured through GVCP, it can start sending the image and other data. GigE Vision defines GVSP (GigE Vision Streaming Protocol) for this purpose. GVSP mainly defines how the image data are packetized and it also offers means for recovery from possible errors occurring during the data transfer.

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Bootstrap registers

The most basic camera parameters, allowing its identification and establishing the connection are summarized in a mandatory block of registers, so called bootstrap registers. The layout of additional registers defining specific camera functionality is left completely up to the camera implementation. The camera describes that layout using XML file compatible with the GenICam standard. This configuration file is usually stored directly on the camera and can be downloaded by means of GVCP.

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Troubleshooting & Support

Getting support for NET products

Before contacting the support team

To get the most effective support, please make sure to check if the issue does not belong to the list of the most common issues (providing solutions to all of them).
Send the problem report to proper e-mail address, depending on the location and the problem nature, as explained in Section "Technical Support" p.78.
Make sure the problem is reproducible, preferably with the SynView Explorer and to capture the sv.synview.log file (See next chapter: "Gathering information about the problem").
Attach the captured log file (one per each session if multiple test scenarios are described in the report) as well as other important information, describe all details about the problem, see "Reporting the problem" p.75. Following these guidelines will guarantee that the problem can be solved effectively, in the shortest possible time.

Gathering information about the problem

When collecting information about a problem, please follow the steps listed hereafter:

- Be sure to use the latest version of SynView. The bug may already be removed in the meantime. The version of currently installed SynView is visible in the SynView Explorer tool (menu Help →About). The latest SynView version can be downloaded from the SynView download area.
- Enable logging. Before attempting to reproduce the problem, be sure the logging is enabled through the SynView Settings tool (or directly the sv.synview.ini file (refer to Section "SynView Settings utility and the configuration file" p.67) enable logging to file, preferably with highest log level. If the application crashes and the log is not complete, switch on the "Disable all buffering log configuration" option.
- Test the hardware functionality with a supplied demo program "SynView Explorer". As the first step use the "standard" demo program, SynView Explorer, which covers most of the possibilities of NET hardware usage. If being able to reproduce the problem in SynView Explorer, then the problem is probably not in the code. However, it still need not be a bug, a problem can be also caused by an improper configuration.
- Camera configuration. Check especially whether the camera is set in a proper working mode. See camera documentation to learn how the camera should be adjusted.
- Check another hardware. Sometimes the problem can be caused by the HW/SW environment or by a defective piece of hardware. Try if the same problem happens on another PC. Try another camera if available. For GigE Vision based cameras, review the network configuration and try to connect the camera directly, without additional network components in the path.

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- Check the application. If the problem could not be reproduced in the previous steps, reproduce the problem in the application. If possible, extract and send us the smallest part of the code that can demonstrate where the problem occurs. Prefereably, make the extracted code fragment compilable, so that the problem can be reproduced with a small application that is send to us. Make sure that the application does proper error handling when accessing SynView functions. Ignoring the error status of SynView functions can lead to unexpected behavior of the application.
- Screenshots. In case of disturbances in the acquired images, do and send the screenshots of them, either as bitmaps with lossless compression (.bmp, .png) or as .jpg with a high quality (small compression).
- Send us the report. Send all the collected information (and especially the sv.synview.log file) to us, following guidelines from the next chapter: “Reporting the problem”.

Reporting the problem

Each problem report should contain following information:

- The email subject should give a brief but specific description of the problem and user´s company name (separated by a “@” character). The subject will be used to identify the evolution of the support case. If a different problem is reported, a new subject string must be created.
    - Example of a good subject: Changing exposure time has no effect @ My Company Inc.
    - Example of a bad subject: Problem with camera
- Describe the problem in detail, including all its symptoms, conditions under which it occurs and all other information that can help resolving the problem. List all the information gathered while testing and reproducing the problem, as described in Chapter “Gathering information about the problem“ p.74.
- Attach the required sv.synview.log file (one per each reported session). The file absolutely essential for NET´s support team and failing to attach it will usually only lead to a response asking to collect and send it, which will in effect make the time needed for the resolution longer. Be sure to send the log file generated during the problematic session together with the report.
- For troubleshooting a CORSIGHT camera running Linux, attach also the device driver log (Linux driver logging“ p.77) and contents of /proc/lvsm. The driver logs are appended to the standard kernel log and can be retrieved for example using the dmesg command.
- If the problem occurs only under some conditions or only with some particular piece of hardware or software, describe the differences between the two cases and attach log files generated during both the successful and problematic sessions. If only a specific sequence of steps leads to the problem, describe this sequence.

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Troubleshooting of NET products

Troubleshooting common issues

The lists below mention some most common issues that can be faced by customers, but have easy solution. It is a good idea to check this list first when encountering a problem. It is also a good idea to check the next Chapter “SynView logging” whether some hints can be found there.

- If the user is not getting any image, or different image data than expected or if there are problems with acquisition timing, the camera should be checked carefully in regard of the settin of the proper working mode and that it is not in some error status (see camera manual for possible description of such situations).

If problems occur with acquisition from a GigEpro/GimaGO easy camera, check whether the firewall settings do not interfere with the acquisition.

SynView logging

All the SynView components are using a common logging subsystem, which can be configured through the sv.synview.ini and SynView Settings (“SynView Settings utility and the configuration file“ p.67).
The log can be directed to various outputs, while the most important of them (especially for support) is the file output. The log file path can be adjusted however the default name (sv.synview.log) as well as the default location (application data directory under Windows, /var/opt/synview/log under Linux) will be just right in most situations.
The logging level can be adjusted. The default level Info (4) provides most useful information about the system and SynView operation. For specific troubleshooting and support requests, it is often useful to switch to the most verbose level Trace (6).
In case of troubleshooting problems involving an application crash, when the log might not be written completely (log buffers not flushed completely at the time of application crash), the logging subsystem should be configured to avoid any buffering. In such case, please switch on the Disable all buffering option.
The logging configuration offers advanced options, the most important of them being the max allowed size of the log file. The log can be also directed to other outputs, but those are mainly intended for use during advanced debugging by qualified personnel.
Several logging mechanisms are used by various SynView components. They are separated to utilize log analysis, to separate domain-specific info from the general purpose logs and to improve performance, logging only what needs to get logged in a given situation. Creation of these log files can usually be controlled by the user.
Note: All information in the logs is informative and its main purpose is to assist the NET support team when trying to resolve possible problems. It is not designed as a tool that should be necessarily well understandable by users, it might be misleading and all the information is context-specific. If a word “error” or “warning” appears in the log, it does not necessarily mean a real error occurred, it might be

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valid situation in a given context. Don't get alarmed because of that and contact support, especially if the application is otherwise working well.

Linux driver logging

On the CORSIGHT systems, a device driver controlling the acquisition device is running. The driver can also provide useful logs, but those are not routed through SynView user level logging subsystem, but rather through standard Linux kernel logging mechanisms. Depending on the system configuration, there might be multiple ways to access that log, but the most convenient is usually to simply execute the dmesg command and store its output to a file. Apart of the kernel log messages, other (mostly static) information can be available through reading the /proc/svsm.

Debugging with GigE Vision cameras

When debugging an application using GigE Vision cameras (GigEpro/GimaGO easy), it's necessary to pay attention to a low level GigE Vision communication parameter, the heartbeat timeout.
This timeout, in milliseconds, defines how frequently has the camera send the “heartbeat” messages to the camera, indicating that it's still alive. When the camera does not receive the message within the specified timeout period, it assumes the application has gone away and disconnects itself. The default value used in SynView is 3 s (other software packages might use another value).
At most times, the heartbeat handling is fully transparent to the user. However, during debugging, when a developer stops the application at a breakpoint for single stepping, the SynView heartbeat handling thread would also stop, fail to deliver the heartbeat messages and the camera would disconnect. To prevent that, we recommend to increase the heartbeat timeout parameter to a higher value. It has to be understood that when the application stops unexpectedly during debugging the camera would not disconnect properly and it will take according to the debug heartbeat setting longer time before the camera becomes available again for connection. The heartbeat parameter is configurable through camera features at runtime (the feature's GenICam name is GevHeartbeatTimeout), while its default value can be adjusted through the SynView Settings utility, configuration option Heartbeat timeout.
Note that some software packages attempt to increase the timeout automatically, whenever they find out that a debugger is attached to the process. We don't do that since we believe that the correct heartbeat timeout value can only be determined by the application developer, for reasons described above.

Debugging symbols

When debugging certain kinds of problems, such as application crash, it might be very useful to provide extended diagnostic information to the support team, such as the stack trace showing the crash point. The installer of SynView for Windows allows to install “PDB files” — files containing the debugging information (symbols) for the SynView libraries. We recommend to install these debug files on the development and testing systems, so that it is possible to generate the stack trace info whenever encountering a problem. The files are located in the bin\Debug subdirectory of the SynView installation. Note that in Linux version of SynView the symbols are directly included in the libraries and executables.

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Technical Support

NET ensures the conformity of its product to be reliable and free from defects during manufacturing by testing all the cameras before release. However, unexpected problems and technical issues may come up due to the complexity of the product.

For technical support contact the agent near you or contact NET directly at the following locations:

Websites

Europe	www.net-gmbh.com
France	www.net-france-sas.fr
Italy	www.net-italia.it
USA	www.net-usa-inc.com
Asia	www.net-japan.com

Email

Europe	info@net-gmbh.com
France	info@net-france-sas.fr
Italy	info@net-italia.it
USA	info@net-usa-inc.com
Asia	info@net-japan.com

Phone

Europe	+49 8806 92 34-0
France	+33 450 452 292
Italy	+39 305 237 163
USA	+1 219 934 9042
Asia	+81 454 781 020

Fax

Europe	+49 8806 92 34-77
Italy	+39 305 237 163
USA	+1 219 934 9047
Asia	+81 45 476 2423

In case of an RMA, the user must first contact NET and obtain an RMA Number before sending the product to NET. We are not responsible for any problems caused by not following the RMA procedure.

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